



## COUNCILLOR LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO HELP FOOD BANKS AND HOMELESS



Councillor Stuart Henley with donations

A CAMPAIGN for donations of food and clothes to give to homeless people ahead of Christmas and the cold winter months has been launched.

Halesowen North's councillor Stuart Henley is appealing for donations from the public.

He said: "There seems to be more homeless people on the streets. I have seen a couple of homeless people in Halesowen town centre."

He is appealing for food and drinks to give to homeless people and tinned food to hand out to food banks.

"I am appealing for noodles, hot drinks with sachets and warm clothes," he said.

Councillor Henley carries out this initia-

tive throughout the year but feels it is particularly important ahead of Christmas.

He added: "I have tried to rehouse people, but some people are stuck in their ways and prefer to stay homeless."

"We need to do what we can to help people out."

### Arrange

Councillor Henley is asking people to contact him to arrange for the donations to be collected and dropped off where they can do most good.

"With people having clear outs and Christmas coming, I am hoping to collect items," said Councillor Henley.

"I am quite happy to pick up donated

items but I would ask people to get in touch and phone me up."

He added that the campaign was growing in importance. Statistics from the Government show that in Autumn 2016, there were 4,134 people estimated to be sleeping rough on any night in the UK.

Rough sleeping increased by 15 per cent from 2015 to 2016, and has gone up by 134 per cent since 2010.

"This campaign is about helping people who are less fortunate," he said.

To contact Councillor Henley, call 07967142367 or email him at Cllr.Stuart.Henley@dudleymbc.org.uk

## SPEEDWAY

### End of the road is feared for Heathens

CRADLEY Heathens face Eastbourne next Monday in what could be their last ever league meeting.

Bosses have confirmed they cannot guarantee the team will be at the tapes for 2018.

Co-promoter Gary Patchett said: "We want to end the season on a high. While we sincerely hope it's not the case, who knows, it could be the last league meeting for Cradley."

The Heathens' season will round off at Monmore, Wolverhampton, on October 23 (7.30pm) with the famous F.A.S.T Golden Hammer individual.

● Last meetings - Back page

## SHOPS

### Town getting lit up with festive display

CASH has been granted to pay for Christmas lights which will be seen Halesowen lit up with a festive glow.

Around £2,000 was set aside by the Halesowen Community Forum for the festive decorations.

The solar-powered lights will be installed in Long Lane. Residents and businesses are also being asked to sponsor the lights. The lights will be unveiled on November 28.

## GOVERNMENT

### Free housing for rough sleepers

HOMELESS drug addicts in the West Midlands could be given free houses under a new Government-backed scheme.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street has announced a bid for the region to lead a radical new trial to combat rough sleeping. Known as Housing First, it would see a major investment in properties so homeless people can be given a place to live.

## INSIDE

### POP LEGEND'S DIAMOND DAYS



PAGE 23

# CLUBS' ANGER AT FLARE SHAME

POLICE and club bosses are hunting football 'fans' who set off a flare injuring a woman aged in her 60s during the local derby between Halesowen Town and Stourbridge.

'Appropriate action' is to be taken against the culprits after two flares were thrown onto the pitch at Amblecote at the weekend.

Police are investigating the attack which left the victim with burns after being hit in the throat while Halesowen Town has launched its own probe.

The flares were thrown onto the pitch during the popular No 9 Derby, named after the bus route which links the two towns, that saw Halesowen win 2-1.

Yeltz vice-chairman Dave Hawley revealed the club will replace the Halesowen fan's damaged football shirt.

A total of 2,306 supporters flocked to the War Memorial Ground in Amblecote for the match.

Mr Hawley said: "The lady in question was treated at the game and had suffered burns to her neck, as well as her injuries she is suffering from shock, and being cared for by her family."

### Blame

"In the incident her Halesowen shirt was damaged and we, of course, are replacing that for her."

"For the record we do not blame anyone from Stourbridge football club, unfortunately in football a few are more interested in causing the disruption of the game for the majority."

"We will work with Stourbridge football club and West Midlands Police in any investigation they undertake to identify who threw both of the flares. The safety of our supporters both home and away is of paramount importance."

Stourbridge's directors said: "The club

### Report by Jamie Brassington

will ban those responsible and is awaiting reports from the FA and police."

West Midlands Police is asking anyone with information to call them on 101.

Two goals from striker Daniel Udoh won Halesowen the game, while Ryan Rowe scored for the Glassboys.

The first flare, a blue one, was thrown after Udoh's first goal around seven minutes. The second flare, a red one, was thrown after Stourbridge equalised after 63 minutes. An announcement was made on the speaker after each incident warning the culprits would be removed from the ground.

Halesowen said they would work with West Midlands Police, Stourbridge and the ground's K2 Security as part of the investigation. The club's statement said: "I Halesowen Town FC supporters are identified as being responsible then appropriate steps will be taken. The vast majority of our fans support the club in the right way - let's keep it like that!"

● Double derby delight - Back Page



A flare hits the pitch during the No 9 Derby between Halesowen and Stourbridge at the War Memorial Ground

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<b>CONTENTS</b>	
PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
ANIMAL CRACKERS	10
THE TICKET	23
BRAIN GYM	29
PROPERTY	31&32
MOTORING	37&38
SPORT	39&40
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# Only black superintendent has retired



Supt Keith Fraser

ONE of the most senior black police officers in the West Midlands has retired after more than 30 years.

Keith Fraser – the only black superintendent with West Midlands Police – has urged more members of the black community to ‘make a difference’ and consider policing, as he brings to an end a career which has seen him go from beat patrols in Barking, via New Scotland Yard to the West Midlands, with roles in child protection, crime investigation, neighbourhood policing and firearms.

He has been an officer since 1985. Supt Fraser said: “One of the proudest moments in my life was putting on my uniform for the first time: the look of pride on my family’s faces will never leave me. I’ve lost track of the amount of times people have come up to me in the street to shake my hand or say ‘it’s good to see a black police officer here.’”

“People who are not white shouldn’t be such a rarity in policing. The service really does need and value difference.”

“Anyone who cares about their communities should look at joining the police, there is no point standing on the outside looking in when you could make a real difference.”

Since joining West Midlands Police in 2005, Keith has worked in Birmingham, Stourbridge, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

He offered words of advice for any potential officers saying: “Being yourself is really important because it’s what you bring is an individual to policing that matters and is most effective. The public relate to you better and the police service definitely benefits.”

# Mystery over death of woman at care home

**AN INQUEST** on a pensioner said to have been found dead on the floor next to her bed at a care home has been ruled inconclusive by a coroner because of ‘conflicting evidence’.

Margaret Janney, a 93-year-old retired school secretary, was found by staff at Roxburgh Care Home on February 10.

However they failed to call 999, which they should have done after finding Ms Janney, instead phoning the non-emergency 111, the Black Country Coroner’s Court in Oldbury was told.

The inquest heard Dr Suhail Muzaffar, who performed Ms Janney’s autopsy, said she suffered a heart attack.

He also revealed she had nine rib fractures that were fairly fresh and could have been caused from the result of her falling from the bed at the home.



Margaret Janney

## Wall

Manager at the care home in Reddall Hill Road, Cradley Heath, Julie Jones, revealed Ms Janney was found on her left side on the floor next to the bed, but she said this should not have happened as it should have been pushed up flush against the wall.

Mr Zafar Siddique, the coroner, said at Tuesday’s conclusion to the hearing: “I simply can not say what happened, whether it was a naturally occurring issue or if she fell out her bed first and had a heart attack, or if she had a heart attack and then fell out of her bed.”

“Overall there is a great deal of conflicting evidence. I am returning an open conclusion.”

## Mayor’s praise for bloom team



The mayor with, from left, Dave Weston, Elaine Cammies, from Halesowen College and chairman Eve O'Connor

**VOLUNTEERS** behind the Halesowen in Bloom campaign were praised by the Mayor of Dudley for their hard work after winning gold for the third year running at the regional Britain in Bloom awards.

They were invited to the Mayor’s Parlour at Dudley Council House where they were presented with the coveted award by the Mayor Councillor Dave Tyler.

Eve O’Connor, chairman of Halesowen in Bloom, who is pictured receiving the award on Monday, said: “It was very nice to hear kind words from councillors on the evening and some recognition for our hard work.”

Halesowen will go on to compete for the national crown, which will be decided by judges next year.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: “This is very much testament to the very strong sense of community spirit in Halesowen.”

“The Heart of England in Bloom judges lavished praise, and rightly

so, on the teams of volunteers, residents and shopkeepers who have worked so hard in both areas to get them looking beautiful.”

The Halesowen in Bloom team were also named ‘Urban Community’ category winners – meaning the town has also secured a place in the national competition.

The work and leadership of group chairman Eve O’Connor, who has led the town to three golds and a silver gilt in four years, was praised by the judges.

# Arrests are made in response to crimewave

**ARRESTS** have been made targeting drug-dealers and burglars in Halesowen following a crimewave in the town, it has been revealed.

Warnings were issued earlier this month about a spike in crime and police have launched a crackdown on culprits.

Police have revealed arrests have been carried out after reports of drug dealing and burglaries.

Halesowen police sergeant Debra Rowbotham told the latest Halesowen Community Forum that ‘some successful arrests’ have been made.

Residents were invited to the meeting to air their views as a result of the rising crime.

## Complaining

Halesowen North councillor Karen Shakespeare said: “Residents are complaining about drug dealing and burglaries and the police said they had made some successful arrests and they are keeping a focus on the area at the meeting.”

Fellow councillor Hilary Bills also revealed earlier this month that there was a spate of cars being stolen off driveways.

Anyone with information for police is urged to call them on 101.

# Extra show for wizard Wagner

**AN** extra performance of a panto has been announced following what organisers described ‘incredible demand’ for the show.

There will be a matinee showing of The Wizard of Oz when it is staged in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in January.

The Stourbridge hospice has organised the family show, which features Wagner from TV’s The X Factor, and Marlene ‘the Black Country Wench’.

The show was originally due to run only on January 23 and 24 evenings but a matinee has been added on January 24 due to public demand.

Tickets for the matinee, £10, are available at [bhllcivic.co.uk](http://bhllcivic.co.uk) website or by calling (01384) 573381.

# Single decker hits station bus shelter

**DUDLEY** Bus Station was cordoned off after a bus struck a shelter on Monday but luckily no one was injured in the incident. Travellers were evacuated from Dudley Bus Station at Fisher Street following the accident involving a National Express.

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# Lorry collision cycle victim was trainee GP in city

A WOMAN cyclist who died after her bike was involved in a collision with a lorry at a busy junction in central Birmingham had been working as a doctor at the city's children's hospital.

The incident happened at the junction of Edgbaston Road and Pershore Road in Birmingham at around 4pm on Tuesday.

Emergency services were called but 32-year-old Suzanna Bull was pronounced dead at the scene.

The lorry driver stopped at the scene and is assisting police with investigations.

West Midlands Police are appealing for witnesses to the incident.

Sergeant Alan Wood, from the force's Collision Investigation Unit, said: "This investigation is in its early stages and we are trying to establish exactly what happened.

"We are appealing to anyone who witnessed the collision who hasn't yet spoken to us to get in touch.

"Our thoughts are with the family of the woman who lost her life. We have specialist officers supporting them at this difficult time."

Ms Bull, who was from Nottinghamshire, had completed her Medical degree at the University of Birmingham and had recently been working at Birmingham Children's Hospital as part of her GP training.

Anyone with information is urged to call police on 101.

# Comedy talent at Brierley Hill venue

TOP TV comics Seann Walsh and Patrick Monahan top a bill of five comedians at Brierley Hill Civic Hall next Saturday, October 21.

Dudley's own Wayne Beese will comper the night which also features Vince Atta and Jake Lambert.

Long-haired Walsh is best known for his appearances on Mock The Week, 8 Out Of 10 Cats and Live At The Apollo, while Monahan won ITV's Show Me The Funny.

Atta has been described as a hip-hop comedian with his comic songs and Lambert is a rising star.

Doors and bar opens at 7pm with the show starting at 8pm. It's an over 18s only event. Tickets cost £18.50, available at bhillicivic.co.uk or by calling (01384) 573381.

# Water closes road

A ROUTE from Halesowen to Bromsgrove was closed due to a burst water main. Water started pouring onto Manor Way at Grange Hill, Halesowen, on Thursday. It was hoped Grange Hill would re-open this week.

# Driver guilty for Nadine's tragic death



Nadine Foster – died in hospital

A SPEEDING learner driver from Stourbridge, who was over the drink limit, has been convicted of killing a young mother.

Joseph Chance looked on emotionless as jurors unanimously convicted him of causing the death of Nadine Foster by dangerous driving in April 2016.

The 25-year-old was found guilty on Tuesday following a trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Chance and friend Dylan Stringer were driving along Oldswinford's Hagley Road in two vehicles when the fatal crash occurred.

Former Dudley College student Nadine Foster, who was a front seat passenger in Stringer's Ford Focus, was left with serious injuries when the car ploughed into a wall.

**Hospital**

The 18-year-old mother, who had also studied at Pedmore Technology College, died in hospital 10 days later.

During the trial, jurors were told the three had been drinking in Stourbridge's Chicago Rock Cafe before leaving the venue in the early hours of April 16.

The two drivers began speeding in

Hagley Road, Oldswinford. Chance, who was driving a Renault Clio – despite telling the court he only had a provisional licence – sped across the road with Springer behind.

The jury heard the two cars reached speeds of almost 80mph.

Chance, of Murocroft Road, and Stringer, of Wychbury Road, Stourbridge, who pleaded guilty to causing death by dangerous driving at an earlier hearing, are due to be sentenced on November 7.

# Call to demolish offices sooner rather than later

A PLANNING boss has called for rapid action to demolish an office block in Halesowen.

Work to bring down Premier House in Birmingham Street was due to begin this month but developers can start at any time over the next five years.

Councillor Andrea Goddard, who chairs Dudley Council's planning committee, wants to see the demolition take place as quick as possible as the move could pave the way for development. She says the site falls victim to anti-social-behaviour and delaying the demolition would impact on the community.

A planning application for the work was approved by Dudley Council in July.

It meant businesses based at the prime site near the town centre have been tasked with finding alternative premises.

Landlord Khosrow Omidvar said all the businesses had been aware that plans could go forward for demolition and that he would be supporting them in finding alternative locations.

## Welcome

Councillor Goddard said: "The company behind the development said they wanted to see work commence in October and finish by mid-November.

"I welcome the development. There has been a lot of trouble in the area with anti-social-behaviour. Hopefully a new development on the site will stop that.

"The company said they want to see the work start in October and will be finished by November.

"Within the planning policy, you have got five years from the start. If you pass five years, an application will have to be passed by planning again to be approved."

She added: "I definitely want to see the demolition take place quickly rather than wait, otherwise we are clinging onto something we don't need."

A council report into the development said: "The applicant advises that demolition would commence in October, to enable redevelopment."

## College's new teachers start work



The new team at Halesowen College line-up for the camera on the college campus

TWELVE new members of staff have started at Halesowen College in a variety of teaching areas including Maths, English, IT and Health and Social Care.

Rachael Bowater will be teaching Maths; Katie Bowkett, English; Lisa Brady, Health and Social Care; Vivien Gelder, Accounting;

Samantha Lowe, Animal Care; Rebecca Paterson, English; Amanda Purewal, IT; Sarah Stott, Business; Clare Taman, Business; Melanie Taylor, Health and Social Care; Terri-Ann Wheeler, English; Sophie Wilkinson, Catering, and Skeerat Jagpal, newly qualified lecturer in Business.

David Williams, Principal of Halesowen College, said: "I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new staff.

"We are looking forward to working alongside these highly skilled individuals to support our students to achieve their very best."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Roadworks to end this week

ROADWORKS which have been causing disruption for motorists in Halesowen are set to come to an end this week.

Maintenance work has been taking place along Long Lane for resurfacing of the highway.

The work started two weeks ago and Halesowen North ward councillor Karen Shakespeare revealed that the work should be completed this week.

She said: "It will cause some disruption to residents but we have tried everything we can to keep disruption to a minimum.

"This work is long overdue," she added.

## Moves to clear away alley rubbish

A CAMPAIGN is being launched to clean up alleyways across Halesowen, including one near a school.

Residents have raised concerns that fly tipping has resulted in rubbish being dumped in alleys within the town.

Halesowen North's Councillor Karen Shakespeare said: "I have arranged for those to be cleaned up.

"Complaints have been made about people dumping rubbish in gulleys."

One of the worse affected alleyways is located next to Holt Farm Primary School in Holt Road, Halesowen.

## Swimmers learn to be lifesavers

SWIMMERS are being urged to take the plunge and sign up to learn life-saving skills on a training course.

Dudley Council is offering the course at Halesowen Leisure Centre and Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge, run by the Royal Life Saving Society.

The courses are open for people 16 and over who will be expected to take a swimming test.

The course costs £245. See dudley.gov.uk/sport or call the leisure centres.

## Teenager arrested after boy is stabbed

A 14-year-old boy has been arrested after a stabbing in Bromsgrove.

West Mercia Police was called to reports of a stabbing on Spirehouse Lane at around 11.30am on Monday.

A teenage boy suffered a stab wound to the abdomen and was taken to hospital. His injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

Officers have arrested a boy from Birmingham, who has been released under investigation.

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# 'Game-playing' council worry over Hippodrome rescue bid

**CAMPAIGNERS** trying to revitalise Dudley Hippodrome fear the council is 'playing a game' in talks over the lease.

Steve Daniels, from Black Country Hippodrome group, which is attempting to revive the landmark venue, said he was 'disappointed' with Dudley Council.

The group claims they were rushed into submitting a report on funding opportunities after they requested the five-year lease be extended. Members have been in discussions with council officials about the Hippodrome.

## It's time to apply for school places

PARENTS in Dudley can now apply for school places if their child is due to start secondary school or reception in September 2018.

Applications in the Dudley Council area can be made online and parents can also find a list of school open events they can attend to help them choose the right secondary school for their child.

Applications for secondary school places can be made until October 31.

Parents of those youngsters seeking places at primary school for their children have until January 15, 2018, to make their applications.

Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for children's services, said: "Choosing a school is one of the most important decisions parents and carers make for their child."

"I urge parents and carers to go along to open days and evenings to help them choose the right school for their children."

Black Country Hippodrome was handed keys to the building with a five-year lease and time to show their bid to revive the venue was realistic. The council has said it will consider a request to extend the lease by 20 years but has asked for a report on progress. Mr Daniels believed they should have been given longer as they were only handed the keys in December.

### Motives

The disagreement threatens to create fresh tension over the landmark building on Castle Hill, which the council had wanted to knock down prior to the rescue bid. Plans to demolish it and create an open public area remain in the background if the revamp falls through.

Mr Daniels said: "I am worried about what their motives are. Are they playing a game by which they say they are giving us a chance but really they are not? We are working hard to make it happen but obstacles come up daily. If people have got ulterior motives it won't happen."

Minor works have been carried out at the former venue, which was last used as a theatre in the 1960s. Black Country Hippodrome needs around to raise £5 million.

## Bear hugs all round at final farewell



Brummies say farewell to the Big Sleuth bears, which will now be sold to help the children's hospital. Pic: @TheBigSleuth

THERE were plenty of bear hugs as crowds turned out to say a fond farewell to the Big Sleuths who have become familiar faces in the city.

The farewell weekend saw hundreds of people gather in Birmingham city centre to catch a final glimpse of the colourful bears, which are being auctioned off in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital.

All 101 bears lined the steps of East-side Park next to Millennium Park last

weekend. The fundraising event also saw dozens of craft and food stalls set up along with face painting and other entertainment on offer for families.

So far, the Big Sleuth project has raised more than £15,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital through the sales of tickets, with thousands more expected from merchandise, donations and The Big Sleuth Raffle - where purchasers stand to win a 3ft paint-your-own bear.

Louise McCathie, director of fundraising at Birmingham Children's Hospital, said: "We will be so sad to see the bears prowl away but are delighted we were able to give the giant sleuth one final farewell before their departure."

Now the bears will be prepared for the grand auction being hosted by Stourbridge-based Fieldings Auctioneers at Birmingham's Thinktank today (Thursday).

## Manufacturers are urged to boost security

CAR crime in the West Midlands has rocketed over 12 months and the figures have prompted the region's police and crime commissioner to blame manufacturers for failing to protect customers.

The rise is part of a series of sharp increases in transport-related crime across the region, including a 39 per cent spike on trains and at railway stations.

Thefts of vehicles has increased in the West Midlands by more than 40 per cent. Figures released this week show there were 5,930 vehicle thefts in 2016, up from 4,161 in 2013.

Commissioner David Jamieson has called for 'tough police action' to reduce the number of vehicle thefts. He has also written to leading manufacturers urging them to improve security measures.

Mr Jamieson said: "The rise in vehicle thefts is concerning. It shows crime is rising not falling as the Government insists."

### Minister

"I have been raising this issue with West Midlands Police to ensure a more robust response and I raised it with the Policing Minister too."

"In addition to recruiting officers to tackle crimes, I have called on leading manufacturers to bring in measures to protect their vehicles from theft."

"As well as tough police action, it is important manufacturers take responsibility to ensure their vehicles are much more difficult to steal."

"Manufacturers are failing in their duties to protect their customers. The manufacturers should face up to their responsibilities and ensure the expensive vehicles they sell are not as vulnerable to hacking and theft."

"Many have long warranties, manufacturers should ensure vehicles are protected for the life of the vehicles they sell."

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## Motorist in chase had taken cocaine

A MOTORIST led police on a high speed chase for 18 minutes had taken cocaine and was not insured, a court was told.

Richard Everill, of previous good character, was ordered to stop by a police patrol which spotted his BMW being driven on Manor Road, Oldbury, at 2.15am on July 22, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 25-year-old, who had taken cocaine, consistently drove at around 20mph above the limit, occasionally on the wrong side of the road, and failed to give way at junctions and roundabouts on wet roads, explained Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting.

Police twice laid stingers in his path without halting his progress before a third finally brought him to a standstill.

Mr Richard Davenport, defending, said: "The only explanation he can give is he had taken cocaine. He is not an addict but has had problems that led him into financial difficulties. He was terrified because he had not renewed his car insurance."

Everill from Red Brick Close, Cradley Heath, admitted dangerous driving, having no insurance and failing to stop. He was given a 10-month jail sentence suspended for two years with a 12-month driving ban. He was also ordered to do 200 hours unpaid work and pay £690 in fines and costs.

## Magistrates court is put on the market

THE former Sandwell Magistrates Court site on Oldbury Ringway has been put up for sale as a potential development site.

The court building closed in September last year as a result of Government cost-cutting. The one-acre site has been put on the market as a freehold building and land by commercial property agents GVA.

# 'You and your baby will be safe with us' says boss

## Drive In keeps on rolling forward



Chris Perrins, of Barclays, Kieran Morris and Natasha Bhardwaj of Hawkins Hatton and Trevor Kelleher, Drive In Autocentres

AN MOT testing firm in the Black Country has secured its future taking possession of one of its sites.

Drive In Autocentres has long been known for MOT testing and tyre servicing within the Black Country. For more than 25 years it has operated from its depots in Blackheath and Halesowen. Barclays Bank has now assisted Drive In by funding its acquisition of the premises in Blackheath.

Drive In used Hawkins Hatton Cor-

porate Lawyers, based in Dudley, to assist it through the legal process and to negotiate all commercial aspects of the acquisition.

Trevor Kelleher, managing director of Drive In, said: "Having secured the Blackheath premises it means we will now have an even more secure base to continue expanding and providing a service second to none within the Black Country."

Chris Perrins, business manager

at Barclays Bank, said: "It is always good to see a SME business continue to thrive and with the ever-expanding number of cars on the road, it is nice to know that we have customers who do their best to service the needs of the general public."

Colin Rodrigues, partner at Hawkins Hatton, added: "In these times of low interest rates, it makes commercial sense to borrow monies to secure commercial property."

A HOSPITAL is safe for mothers to have their babies, its boss has insisted following a damning report – as she apologised to women who received poor care.

Expectant mothers should be assured action had been taken at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital to address serious concerns over maternity care, Dudley Group NHS Trust chief executive Diane Wake said.

She was speaking following the release of a report that outlined a series of failures within the maternity unit where 43 serious incidents were reported over a 20-month period, including the death of a baby and five incidents of avoidable harm.

An investigation was launched by NHS England due to the sheer scale of serious incidents reported between April 2014 and December 2015 – more than any other maternity unit in the West Midlands.

Failings flagged up included babies' heart rates being wrongly monitored, staff being slow to react to urgent situations and not recognising mothers' conditions deteriorating.

### Risk

The hospital's own investigations into what was going wrong was 'inadequate', creating a risk of further harm to babies, the report by the Maternity Quality Improvement Board said.

Ms Wake, who joined the trust as chief executive after the period of concern, accepted it was a 'large number' of serious incidents. But she insisted the maternity unit was now a different place to what it was two years ago, following a rigorous staff training. Extra midwives had also been recruited.

So far this year there have been two serious incidents, which is seen as a major improvement on previous years. She said: "I now feel confident if there is anything wrong we have the right processes and systems to tell us early."

## Deputy chief on move to new council

A COUNCIL'S deputy chief executive is leaving his post to take up the top job at another authority.

Dudley Council's deputy chief executive and strategic director for people Tony Oakman will leave at the end of January to become chief executive of Bolton Council.

Mr Oakman joined Dudley Council in March 2015 as strategic director for people. He said he would be sad to be leaving the authority, but delighted to be taking on his new role.

"I'm extremely proud of what we're achieving here in Dudley and I'm proud to be leaving the authority in a better place," he said.

Council leader Patrick Harley, who represents Kingswinford South, said: "Tony has made a big contribution to moving the council forward and delivering more efficient and effective services and we wish him all the best in his new role."

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IN MY VIEW  
with Mark Andrews



# So many channels but little to watch

HERE has been a bit of a kerfuffle over Lavinia Woodward, the “too posh for prison” student who walked free from court after stabbing her boyfriend with a bread knife.

Judge Ian Pringle came to his decision after hearing Miss Woodward had a personality disorder, an eating disorder and a previous dependency on drugs and alcohol. Oh, and prison would damage her hopes of a high-flying career as a surgeon.

Is it just me, or is it that last sentence not just a little disturbing? I know there's a shortage of doctors and nurses, but to we really want somebody with so many issues wielding the scalpel? All I can say is I hope she uses plenty of anaesthetic.

WRITING in the esteemed British Medical Journal, Professor Alyson Pollock calls for a ban on tackling and scrumming in school rugby games, saying it puts youngsters at risk of head injuries.

I suppose if I was being cynical, I might be tempted to ask what position Prof Pollock played while she was at school.

I sort of agree with her. From my memories of playing rugby at school, the game would be infinitely more enjoyable without all that shoulder-to-shoulder jostling, and pulling your opponents down with your hands.

But I don't think Prof Pollock goes far enough. To make rugby the sort of game I would have enjoyed, they need to ban handling the ball, and all that nonsense where they touch the ball on a line and then pick it up again. In fact, get rid of all those complicated rules that a 14-year-old has no chance of understanding. A round ball would make sense, too.

A CROWD of supporters chant Jeremy Corbyn's name, and he is hailed as the next prime minister. Theresa May has a cough, and it's time to resign. I guess that's the age of television for you.

TALKING of television, isn't it amazing that, at a time when we have more channels than ever before, that there really is so little worth watching?

There are only two programmes I would take the time to bother with these days: The Apprentice, and Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away, which the broadcasters are now screening at the same time.

In the past, this would not have been a problem, because I would have recorded one on the old VHS player, but this has proved near-impossible since the digital switchover. They call this progress.

## Well at least you get what you want for anniversary gift



Mayor Sadiq Khan plans to create zones where all solid fuels are banned



Feisty Scottish Tory leader Ruth Davidson wants to take the fight to Jeremy Corbyn



Jeremy Corbyn – still plenty of scope for backbench problems to confront him

# More saying I Do to self-marriages

THE latest development in matrimony is self-marriage. Described as “a symbolic and feminist act,” it brings all the benefits of a traditional wedding (pretty frock, bridesmaids, big party, etc) without the complication of a partner. The bride simply pledges to love, cherish and respect herself. You may mock but self-marriages seem to last. The Times reports that one self-married lady in Vancouver got engaged to someone else but realised it was a mistake, broke it off and remains happily married to herself. Well, good luck to them all, even if their wedding anniversaries must be a tad predictable. “You bought me a what? It's just what I wanted. How did you know?”

BEFORE the blood had even dried, some survivors of this week's Las Vegas massacre were singing the praises of the US Constitution which declares: “A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.” And if the aim of guns-for-all is to create a militia, then simple logic says the people must be permitted not only shotguns and sporting rifles but military-grade weapons like the ones unleashed by Stephen Paddock.

THERE is really no point in us Brits engaging the US gun lobby in America's guns debate. We think they are bonkers. They think we are wimps. After every massacre, the response of thousands of Americans is always the same. Buy more guns. About 30,000 Americans are killed by guns every year and yet still in millions of US hearts beats the notion that guns make

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



you safer. Over the past 40 years the number of guns owned by US citizens has doubled to more than 300 million. It is believed there are now more guns in the United States than people.

NOTHING in life is simple. London's mayor Sadiq Khan plans to create zones where all solid fuels, including wood used in trendy log-burners, are banned. And who can argue with that? In a huge city like London, there are clean alternatives such as gas and electricity. But the capital is also famous for its pizza parlours. And how can you bake the perfect pizza without the traditional wood-fired oven? So what began as a common sense scheme to clean up the Great Wen has turned into an awkward little spat, with an ethnic dimension between Khan and the Piza, Pasta and Italian Food Association. From a Guardian debate on wood burning I liked this reassuring contribution: “The pizza absorbs all the poisons, then you eat it. So yeah, it's fine.”

IF the Conservatives are looking for new inspiration, or for a new leader, they must surely look North. Ruth Davidson, the feisty Scottish Tory leader, is a bundle of energy with a sharp sense of humour. She wants to take the fight to Jeremy Corbyn and I cannot name anyone more

calculated to put the fear of God into the Corbynites. How would Labour claim to speak for diversity and inclusivity when their leader was male, pale and stale but the new Tory leader was a young Scottish lass in a same-sex relationship? Davidson ticks boxes, scares the socialists and is 30 years younger than Mr Corbyn.

CORBYN has proclaimed Labour is now the mainstream political party. But he should beware. There are plenty of orthodox non-left wing Labour MPs and activists who deplore the threats of the Momentum faction to get rid of those Members who do not toe the party line. So there remains plenty of scope for backbench problems to confront Corbyn.

LET me say at the outset that there is nothing remotely funny about ramblers being chased and bitten by free-ranging pigs in the New Forest a few days ago. The pigs were said to be “out for trouble, like a gang of teenagers.” But the quote that made me smile came from the bitten walker who explained the background: “I had been warned there had been some friction between the pigs and the ponies.” Anyone else thinking of Animal Farm?

PLAIN English department. Uniper, the company demolishing an old power station in Shropshire, says it will keep the local council and residents fully informed. One councillor responded: “It is extremely encouraging to hear of Uniper's commitment to undertake proactive stakeholder communications.” Seriously, does anyone actually talk like this, going forward?

## TALKING POINT



# Snacks at school? Let's just roll with it

CAN you imagine the outrage when Greggs put up the prices of its sausage rolls last week?

It could add food to the fuel of bosses at Shirley Manor Primary in Bradford, however, which has banned the savoury snacks, along with pork pies and pepperoni sticks from school lunchboxes.

It has even gone so far as asking children to reveal the contents of their packed lunch before being allowed to tuck in. One has visions of an I'm A Celebrity . . . contestant showing the insides of their mouths to prove they've eaten the live cockroach for a bushtucker trial.

The school says it is to encourage healthy eating and a more physical lifestyle. But if any prohibited items are discovered the packed lunch can be taken away. How can that be good for them?

The move has been branded ridiculous by parents, who say the school should stick to teaching the children. They add the decision-makers do not take into account fussy eaters and claim they, more than any school, should know what their child likes and doesn't like.

Rightly so, in my opinion. Surely a healthy appetite just doesn't mean eating food that is supposedly good for you.

The problem I suspect, is more a health and safety issue. You see, when I was at school, dining ate into just 10 minutes of our lunch period. The rest of the time, like at other breaks, we were running around the playground, letting off steam, burning off calories, something that all youngsters should be allowed to do.

But with today's health and safety rules, it seems that the powers-that-be are scared to let children play and run around – despite being warned against obesity and a sedentary lifestyle – in case they fall over or bump into someone else and hurt themselves.

Accidents can occur at any time and in all walks of life. Surely encouraging children to be just that, while advocating the benefits of sport, would be more beneficial than telling them that they can't tuck into the buffet at Christmas.

Calls have even been made for youngsters to be banned from tackling in rugby for fear of injuries. How ridiculous! It's a key part of the game and is as much a skill as being able to sidestep a player. Surely a ban would surely reduce the game as a spectacle.

Anyone taking part in any activity would know the risks involved. So, can we just let our children grow up, educate them, teach them right from wrong and encourage them to get out and enjoy themselves more?

MARK SHIPP

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# Problems ahead with monthly benefit

WHILST not wanting to join the argument about Universal Credit being introduced to replace other benefits, I feel that the one big problem is moving the payments from fortnightly to monthly.

When I worked at a large company there was a move to change wages from weekly in cash to monthly paid into a bank account, this was done on a gradual basis over a long period with help in the form of advances to help staff over the transition.

Now these were well paid people who were not on work-related benefits

as they did not exist then but, even so, some found the first couple of months a struggle.

Therefore, it is no surprise that people who are on a low income, only just managing, cannot change easily to getting nothing for a month and then one big payment which they have to budget with.

Having to make the choice of something for the kids or paying the rent cannot be easy.

Most of the programmes on television give the impression of people who have no culture of managing money,

rather they spend it like kids with pocket money.

I know these are always extreme cases just to wind the rest of us up but surely it must be seen that the money is better given out in manageable amounts.

As to large numbers being behind with their rents, it is time this was looked at again and at least in the case of social housing, which is being supported by taxpayers, the rent should be deducted at source.

**RON GWILLIAMS**  
Brierley Hill

## Admire Invictus and Harry

I HAVE been watching the Invictus Games. It makes me feel ashamed when I moan about a cold or my aching 71-year-old bones.

I saw men and women with no arms or legs, young people coming together from all over the world who competed alongside other ex-soldiers.

There were no winners or losers, every one of those people made me realise how lucky I am. I think I have problems but these great men and women are a far better person than I will ever be.

I hope the Invictus Games goes on to become as big as the Olympics, the marathon and the Tour de France. These courageous men and women never gave up. But they rose above it and thanks to the great young man Prince Harry they have put the Invictus Games on the map.

My heart and my admiration goes out to them.

**KEITH PARTON**  
Wolverhampton

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
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### EMAIL

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

**Code of Practice:** Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at [www.ipso.co.uk](http://www.ipso.co.uk). If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

## Behind our backs

I am writing on behalf of myself and the other residents of School Street, Pensnett. There are two plots of land in School Street; a few months ago builders applied to buy and build on this land. Dudley Council planning department threw it out, on the grounds that the area was already overdeveloped and effects on existing residents - privacy, parking, wildlife being affected, including (supposedly) protected bats, also seven beautiful well-established silver birch trees being torn out, to name but a few of the reasons.

The builders reapplied and this time the application was handled in Bristol. Unbelievably the Bristol planning department approved it! The people who approved it don't even live here! What's angered us all in School Street is none of us were informed about the application being approved, we only found out by chance, this was all done behind our backs.

**LEE THOMAS**  
Pensnett

## Many will be left bankrupt

THE Bank of England continues to predict interest rate rises, because inflation is running ahead of wage rises.

This would mean a 'double whammy' for those buying their own homes, an increase in mortgage payments and in any credit card payments.

I fail to see how those who are 'just about managing' will be able to afford this.

The Bank of England has also made clear there will be no more buying of bank shares to counter a surge of bad debt. The banks must ensure enough reserves to deal with another downturn.

This means large numbers of ordinary people facing bankruptcy.

Yet I have not heard a word from either of the two main party leaders about this.

**MR D POULTON**  
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**FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL**



# Raids find £15k worth of illegal tobacco and alcohol

**TRADING standards seized more than £15,000 of illegal tobacco and counterfeit vodka during raids across Sandwell.**

More than 150,000 illegal cigarettes and packets of rolling tobacco, and four bottles of vodka, were confiscated in the operations held across Sandwell.

Sandwell Council's leader Steve Eling warned shop owners risk losing their license if caught out. Meanwhile Bob Charnley, trading standards and licensing manager at Sandwell, warned illegal tobacco sales encourages children and young adults to smoke.

## Investigation expanding at 2 Sisters sites

THE investigation into food giant 2 Sisters is to be expanded to its other plants across the country, the Food Standards Agency has announced.

Inspectors have been on site at the West Bromwich plant following damaging allegations over food hygiene which have plunged the company into turmoil, with the likes of Tesco and M&S suspending chicken orders.

The firm also has plants in Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, and Smethwick, which could now be inspected.

The FSA said it had not identified food safety issues in West Bromwich, but that investigations had 'highlighted issues requiring management attention, for example in relation to some aspects of staff training and stock control'.

Allegations over hygiene and practices emerged following undercover filming by ITV and the Guardian newspaper.

A sniffer dog was used during the operations held in Rowley Regis and West Bromwich.

Concealed stashes of illegal tobacco were found hidden inside the four shops - with hiding places including behind a fuse box, a false wall and in crisp boxes.

The raids were carried out in a joint intelligence-led operation between Sandwell trading standards and West Midlands Police as part of the annual Safer 6 campaign which takes place each year in Sandwell aimed at improving the borough.

The shops are now being investigated by trading standards and face criminal prosecution which could result in an unlimited fine and 10 years imprisonment.

Bob Charnley, Sandwell trading standards and licensing manager, said: "People who deal in illegal tobacco are more likely to encourage others, especially children and young adults, to smoke. All tobacco is harmful but the illegal tobacco market and in particular the availability of cheap cigarettes makes it harder for smokers to quit."

To contact Trading Standards, call the Confidential Fakes Hotline on 03003 032636 or visit [sandwell.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://sandwell.gov.uk/tradingstandards) website.

## Lorry gets wedged under bridge



Vehicles over 4.4 metres should not drive under the bridge. Photo: @Secondcitylee

A LORRY driver got more than he bargained for when he got caught under a notorious low bridge.

The Home Bargains driver tore off the roof of his lorry under the bridge, which is close to Sandwell and Dudley Railway Station, on Sunday afternoon.

The lorry was stranded along Bromford Road in Oldbury between Fountain Lane and Brandon Way at 1.50pm.

Passers-by caught these snaps of the lorry trapped beneath the bridge.

West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service were called to the scene, though the driver got out of the lorry before they arrived. @Secondcitylee who tweeted the images said: "Not a good day for #HomeBargains." No injuries were reported.

A spokeswoman for West Midlands fire service said: "We were called to the scene by police at 12.55pm on Sunday. No one was trapped or injured. We sent out our technical rescue crew to ensure the structural safety of the bridge and alerted Network Rail who then attended the scene." Fire crews were still at the scene at 3pm.

Despite a large 'low bridge' sign and a warning not to drive vehicles higher than 4.4 metres under the bridge, it is not the first time unsuspecting drivers have been caught out. In September 2016 a lorry was trapped, blocking the road to traffic, whilst earlier that year in May, trains and traffic were delayed as another driver caught his HGV under the bridge.

## More speed cameras if funds found

SPEED enforcement cameras could be rolled out across the Black Country following a successful trial in other areas.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson is in talks with councils in Dudley, Walsall, Sandwell and Wolverhampton to see if they are willing to part-fund the scheme. It follows a pilot in Birmingham and Solihull, which police say has led to a marked reduction in speeding.

Combined with mobile units and smart motorway cameras, the average speed cameras issued £8 million in fines over the trial period, which is due to continue until February.

There are currently 160 mobile camera sites across the West Midlands.

A report to the force's Strategic Crime and Policing board noted a drastic increase in recorded offences in the first two months the cameras went live. The number of offences detected rose from 4,000 in July to 12,000 in August and around 8,500 in September. However, the report shows that by October the number of offences had fallen 'back to normality' at around the 4,500 mark.

Mr Jamieson, an advocate of average speed cameras, said: "Speed is one of the biggest causes of deaths on the road and one of the biggest issues that local people raise with me."

## Gin and jazz at pub's three day festival

A REAL ale pub is branching out by staging a three-day gin and jazz event next month.

More than 100 gins will be featured in an Art Deco-themed marquee at The Swan in Long Lane, Halesowen, during the festival from November 9 to 11. There will be music from jazz singers and musicians during the event.

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# Killer Barley's threats were ignored – claim

**KILLER** Aaron Barley, who murdered Tracey Wilkinson and her son Pierce, threatened to kill the Stourbridge mother just three days before stabbing them – but support workers 'ignored' the warning, it has been claimed.

Mrs Wilkinson, aged 50, reportedly told volunteers about death threats from Aaron Barley, 24, just days before he stabbed her and her 13-year-old son to death in their home on March 30.

But support workers at the Atlantic House Recovery Centre, on Dudley Road, Stourbridge, did not inform police according to a national newspaper report. It is alleged the incident was just one of four cases of concerning behaviour that support workers did not pass on.

Barley also expressed a desire to kill in front of volunteers at Atlantic House, according to The Times. One volunteer said they were worried about his attitude to women and another was left thinking he either wanted to 'kill a copper or a prison officer'.

## Robust

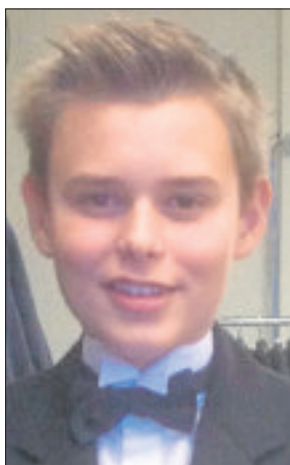
Change, Grow, Live, the charity that runs Atlantic House, said managers would have immediately informed police if they had heard about the threats.

A centre spokesman confirmed that it had 'a robust policy for reporting to the police violent intent, threats or an indication to commit a crime'. They said: "If a member of staff, volunteer or service user raises concerns – we would report this to the police immediately."

It added that if information was kept back it was 'out of our control



**Tracey Wilkinson** – it is claimed that she reported threats made by Barley



**Pierce Wilkinson** – the 13-year-old schoolboy was killed by Aaron Barley

to escalate to police' and 'no concern was ever raised or reported to Atlantic House Recovery Centre about Aaron Barley'.

Barley's former foster mother read violent threats on his Facebook page in which he wrote about 'taking down' his family and reported this West Midlands Police.

Detective Superintendent Tom Chisholm, head of the West Midlands Police homicide investigation team, and a detective with 22 years experience, said after the trial: "It is the most shocking case I have ever dealt with because of the unpredictable level of violence. There was no build up to it. It was completely unexpected and it

is very unusual for there to be no clear motive for a crime of this magnitude." On March 30 Barley lay in wait armed with a knife in the back garden of their Greyhound Lane home until Mr Wilkinson took the family dog for a walk, crept upstairs where he stabbed Mrs Wilkinson and her son.

He ambushed Mr Wilkinson, then stole the family Land Rover Discovery which he crashed in nearby Norton Road when chased by police.

Det Supt Chisholm added: "It is incredibly rare that we deal with an incident that has such a massive impact both on the victims' family, the wider community and officers that investigated it."

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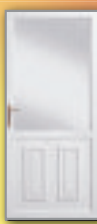


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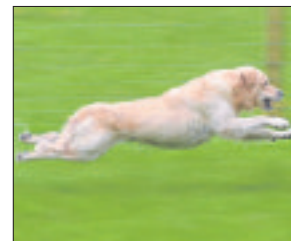
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## Competition entries keep flooding in



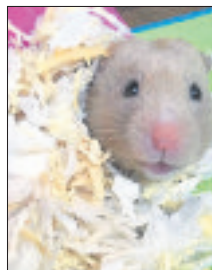
Olaf the rabbit with his friend Anya



Barney in full flight after a tennis ball



Mia enjoys ripping up a party hat



Hamster Wilbur peeps out



Kevin likes to be nosey



Dougal just loves walks



Jasmine the toe nibbler

## Don't you just love them, big and small?

WELL it is obvious how much we all love our pets. This is the third week pictures have flooded in in response to our Animal Crackers competition and our basket of hopefuls just keeps growing and growing.

From cute and cheeky to athletic we have had a vast range of entries. It is going to be a difficult job for you readers to judge but we hope you are enjoying seeing the pictures!

But we still want more. Send us a



picture of your beloved pet and as well as the chance to see your pet in print, you could also win a £100 cash prize. It can be any animal as long as it is

a pet belonging to you or a member of your family.

Our Chronicle judges are simply looking for interesting pictures. We will select 10 of our favourite pictures and then it is up to our readers to decide on the winner.

To enter email the images to sue.attwater@expressandstar.co.uk with your name and details, including where you are from and a bit of information about your pet.

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From the extensive car park a few steps lead to double doors opening onto the welcoming reception foyer, to the right of which is the well appointed and tastefully decorated Lounge Bar which can comfortably seat up to 50. Again from the foyer but to the left and through double doors lies the function room which is light and airy with a solid wooden parquet floor and a stage. This room can accommodate up to 90 diners in a traditional table plan or 80 with round tables. For less formal occasions such as buffets the maximum room capacity is 120. It is ideal for Wedding receptions, Birthday and Anniversary celebrations, concerts and seminars.

The recent appointment of Matt Eades of Thinking Food to provide the catering will ensure all aspects of service are of the highest standard. Matt has over 25 years experience in the catering sector and is particularly skilled in larger functions having worked for prestigious Golf Clubs and similar establishments, and he is equally comfortable with providing traditional fayre or innovative menus for those with a more adventurous taste.

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## Wedding Fair

22nd October



Newfields banqueting suite is holding its first ever wedding fair on 22nd October, there will be plenty to look at and sample. There will be two bridal catwalk shows with TDR outlet and welcome drinks on arrival. So please come down and have a look at Halesowen's best kept secret.

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# Clergy are appointed canons of cathedral

FOUR vicars have been appointed honorary canons in recognition of their work in both the Worcester diocese and the wider church.

They were chosen by the Bishop of Worcester and will form a bridge between the diocese and Worcester Cathedral, where they were installed in their new roles.

Jan Humphries, lay minister in Gornal and Sedgley; the Reverend Sue Oliver, vicar of St Mark's Church in Pensnett; Reverend Alex Vaccaro, associate priest in the Kidderminster Ismere team; and Reverend Rob Hall, Rector of the Halas Team in Halesowen, were appointed.

The bishop, the Rt Rev Dr John Inge, said: "These people who have given and continue to give outstanding service to the church in the Diocese of Worcester. They will be great ambassadors for the cathedral in the diocese and vice versa."

Mr Oliver said: "I am so very humbled and thankful for this invitation to be installed as an honorary canon at Worcester Cathedral, the place where I was ordained priest and love so much."

Mr Hall added: "I have known and loved Worcester Cathedral since first visiting it as a 12-year-old boy from Stourbridge.



Bishop of Worcester the Rt Rev Dr John Inge with the newly appointed canons at Worcester Cathedral

# Old £1 coins soon no longer legal tender

A BUILDING society is urging people to check piggy banks, old handbags and the back of their sofas for old-style £1 coins while they remain legal tender.

Any of the 'old' circular £1 coins will only be able to be traded in at banks and building societies after the October 15 deadline – this includes branches of Dudley Building Society.

The new 12-sided £1 coin entered circulation at the end of March with much less publicity than was seen for the changes in £5 and £10 notes. This has led to concern a number of people will be left with coins that are unable to use in the shops

The new coin has been branded the most secure in the world with 1.5 billion of them now in circulation.

The society, which has branches in Brierley Hill, Gornal, Kingswinford, Perton and Dudley town centre, will accept the old coins from both members and non-members.

# Thousands of vehicles seized in crackdown

POLICE have seized more than 11,500 cars from uninsured drivers in the West Midlands over the last 12 months, figures have revealed.

The vehicles were recovered from roads across the region and can be impounded or destroyed under current police powers. It comes as the force launched a clampdown on uninsured drivers.

According to figures revealed in a report to the region's Strategic Policing and Crime board, West Midlands Police (WMP) seized 11,550 cars in 2016/17.

The figure includes 268 vehicles that were seized in one week alone in October 2016, and comes ahead of the force's No Insurance Week of Action, which is due to start on Monday.

The report says that 47 per cent of the vehicles recovered for no insurance had been spot checked by traffic or motorway patrol officers.

The region's Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jamieson introduced powers to seize and destroy uninsured vehicles when he was a road safety minister in 2004.

He said: "This was in answer to the menace of uninsured drivers, who are often in untaxed and unsafe vehicles.

## Majority

"I know that the vast majority of law-abiding motorists will welcome this action by West Midlands Police as they are sick of paying the price for uninsured drivers." WMP works closely with the Motor Insurance Bureau (MIB) to tackle uninsured drivers.

The MIB shares its database of uninsured vehicles on a weekly basis, which enables police forces to target enforcement against ve-



PCC David Jamieson

hicles that are known to be uninsured.

The force says that although it doesn't have the resources to investigate a vehicle every time it flags up on an automatic number plate recognition camera, officers do have the power to seize and destroy vehicles that are stopped.

Earlier this month the MIB revealed that accidents involving uninsured drivers have increased for the first time since 2004.

Over the last year claims have gone up by 10 per cent to reach 12,000.

The rise bucked the trend of a steady decrease in claims every year from 2004-2016.

Ashton West, chief executive at the MIB, said the figures highlighted the devastating impact of uninsured driving on communities and families.

# Mayor visits 50th firm

THE Mayor of Dudley has reached the halfway mark in his pledge to visit 100 businesses in the borough during his year in office.

Councillor Dave Tyler's visit to The Alan Nuttall Partnership was the 50th business he has seen so far. Councillor Tyler said: "We are lucky to have so many vibrant, ambitious businesses in the borough and it has been fascinating visiting them to find out more about their work."

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# 12 Baggies boost their link with city university

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, October 12, 2017

WEST Bromwich Albion FC has extended its partnership with a university.

University of Wolverhampton will be the club's Further Education Partner until 2019 after it started four years ago.

It will mean advertising at The Hawthorns for the university as well as a presence from the club at university open days.

The club also aims to develop internship and work placement opportunities for University of Wolverhampton students across several departments at the Club.

Albion's chief commercial officer, Simon King, said: "The University continues to symbolise everything we look for when forming new partnerships.

"A clear ambition to develop on an international scale, without losing touch of the importance of close community links.

"We've already made significant strides with the University in recent years and we're looking forward to strengthening our relationship in the years to come."

Professor Ian Oakes, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the uni, said: "We are delighted to be extending our sponsorship with a key partner in West Bromwich Albion. The club have firmly established themselves in the Premier League and like the University has built up a strong reputation and brand profile in the UK and internationally."

## Wedding fair on way to Lightwoods

LIGHTWOODS House in Bearwood hosts a wedding fair on Sunday, offering couples the chance to meet with suppliers and companies, as well as look at the house itself as a venue for their nuptials.

Suppliers due at the recently opened house in Adkins Lane, Smethwick, will include photographers, florists, venue decorators and a make-up artist plus a singer.

Admission to the fair, which runs from 11am until 3pm, is free. For more details about weddings at Lightwoods House, go to [www.lightwoodsparkandhouse.co.uk](http://www.lightwoodsparkandhouse.co.uk) or email [lightwoods\\_house@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:lightwoods_house@sandwell.gov.uk)

# Blind Dave's story on screen

Fundraiser Blind Dave Heeley's inspirational story of amazing deeds is being made into a film

**THE cameras are well and truly rolling now on 7 Days – a film about the Black Country's own Blind Dave Heeley.**

Dave is the first blind man to complete seven marathons in seven continents in seven days. This story, and many other of his great achievements, will be told in the 40-minute film due to be released later this year.

A recent weekend of filming saw young Charlie Boswell make his acting debut as the schoolboy Dave.

Updating the movie blog, Pixel Revolution Films wrote: "We had another productive weekend of filming and managed to film a lot of the young Dave scenes. We had a great cast including Charlie Boswell, playing Dave.

### Himself

"Charlie had never acted before, but just like the real Dave, he's an Albion super fan and keen runner. So, this meant that Charlie really just had to be himself on camera.

"But, it was important for us to create an environment that would allow him to feel relaxed and comfortable. Our producer Nigel Martin Davey did an outstanding job as usual, ensuring that everything went without a major hiccup."

Releasing new images of filming, the blog continues: "Charlie proved to be a natural in front of the camera and was a joy to work with. We of course have to give a big thanks to Charlie's mum, Sam for her support during the shoot.

"Also working with us for the first



The poster for the film



Filming a scene portraying a moment from Dave's childhood



Experienced TV actress Sarah Manners on the set

time was Jane Campion Hoye, who plays Dave's Mum. Jane gave us a beautifully subtle but emotional performance. Playing the part of Dave's dad was Carl Wharton, who last worked with us on Evolution. Carl is an outstanding screen actor who really inhabits his role."

There has also been more scenes shot involving the older Dave alias



Discussing a scene with Charlie Boswell, playing young Dave

Jack Lane. This time he was working opposite actress Sarah Manners who is known for her roles in Doctors and Casualty.

Dave, who discovered he was going blind at the age of 10, has told of his pride about the film. The 59-year-old's achievements include finishing the gruelling Escape from Alcatraz swim, running 10 marathons in 10

days from John O'Groats to Land's End and a 700-mile week-long bike ride between Zurich and Birmingham. This year he is running each of the 25 Great Run events.

He said: "I feel quite privileged and also very proud that somebody wants to do it.

"When the book came out I still didn't really believe I'd had a book

published and what had happened in my life was between the covers.

"Stuff like this doesn't happen to us lads in West Bromwich.

"I'm quite excited for it. To be honest I think it's absolutely bloody fantastic.

"The support I've had from a lot of people in recent times – including the Baggies, where I've been on the pitch and got the Freedom of The Hawthorns – has been unbelievable."

The film, called 7 Days, will be about 40 minutes long so it can be shown at specific movie festivals.

But the producers said they are hopeful that if it gets a positive response then it could be turned into a feature film.

Blind Dave said: "It's going to be a short film and hopefully it gets the message across to people that anything is possible.

"It will focus on me doing the seven marathons but also have flashbacks to when I was younger and losing my sight."

Former Aston Villa owner Sir Doug Ellis, who is an executive producer on the film, said: "I was glad to support this film about Blind Dave Heeley.

"It will inspire many. His story will show it's not about what you can't do – it's about what you can do."

Pixel Revolution Films have teamed up with South and City College Birmingham on the film.

Pixel Revolution Films was set up by award winning film-makers and digital artists, Ian and Dominic Higgins with the aim of creating fresh and innovative projects.

Ian and Dominic originally studied art, photography and 3D design at Bournville Art College and only gained their first experience working within a film crew after a job interview at a local pub led to a chance meeting with a BBC set designer who took an interest in their budding script writing and film-making aspirations.

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## More armed police operations in region

WEST Midlands Police has launched more than 1,000 armed operations in the last six months as the force battles to contain the region's growing gang problem.

Chief Constable Dave Thompson said the 1,054 operations since April were a mixture of swoops that were intelligence led and those that involved spontaneous responses to incidents. He said the figure represented a 'slight increase' on the same period last year, and said it highlighted the need to 'dismantle' gang activity across the West Midlands.

So far this year, 118 guns had been voluntarily surrendered to West Midlands Police, including 37 operational guns and 28 imitation firearms.

Mr Thompson told a meeting of the Strategic Policing and Crime board that the number of firearms incidents across the region averaged around 170 a month.

He said that a 'broader partnership effort' was needed between police and other agencies to combat the use of firearms. "We are doing a lot of work around disrupting and targeting offenders," he said, adding that it was vital the force worked with young people.

Mr Thompson added: "I would appeal to those who are concerned about things happening in their area to immediately contact us directly or through Crimestoppers."

## Kidnapped model defends book deal



Chloe Ayling – offered 'a few thousands' for her story

MODEL Chloe Ayling has defended profiting from her alleged kidnapping ordeal – involving two Polish brothers based in the Black Country – after being paid for television interviews and writing a book.

The 20-year-old claims she was snatched, drugged and held hostage for six days by a group called Black Death after being lured to a fake modelling shoot in Milan in July.

But she has attracted criticism for the way she has handled herself in the media since the incident, with some claiming it was a publicity stunt.

Speaking on ITV's Good Morning Britain, 20-year-old mother-of-one insisted that the truth would be revealed when those accused of being involved in her abduction appear in court. She revealed that she will be getting a 'few thousand pounds' in a book deal and added that she was also paid for some interviews.

Alleged captor, Lukasz Herba, 30, who was living in Tivoli, is in custody in Milan. His 36-year-old brother Michal Herba, is to be extradited to Italy but plans to appeal the ruling. Both deny knowingly taking part in a crime.

## Spooky treats on witch trail at park

A MONTH-long Spooky Spectacular allows children to follow clues among life-sized sweets to find a gingerbread house at West Midland Safari Park.

However, the wicked witch who resides in the house on the Trick or Treat Trail at the attraction may either give them a treat or a trick. This year's festival also sees the return of Dino Quest with a whole new adventure.

Head entertainments officer Matt Nock said: "We are all so excited about Halloween this year, especially the addition of our new gingerbread house and resident witch."

Opening hours will be extended until 9pm on weekends and the October half-term holiday.

Guests are encouraged to dress up. Spooky Spectacular is included in the standard admission of £23 for adults and £18 for children aged three-to-15 years and £21 for concessions.

# Shake-up of bus services is on way due to congestion

**A MAJOR shake-up of bus services across Dudley borough could be on the way.**

National Express said changes to timetables may be needed due to the level of congestion on the roads. An online consultation has been launched to help transport experts with the first major review of bus services in Dudley for almost a decade

Congestion has increased on the busiest routes, leading to longer journey times, particularly on Birmingham New Road, says the bus firm.

National Express said the last major review of bus services in Dudley took place in 2008.

"Patterns of demand have changed and we may need to change the bus network to reflect this," said a spokesperson. "We are working closely with

Transport for West Midlands, Dudley Council and other stakeholders to review the network of bus services in and around Dudley to ensure that it meets today's and future needs. We're considering all routes within Dudley borough, as well as some services in Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Birmingham."

Visit [www.nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/information/service-changes](http://www.nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/information/service-changes)

## Co-op hits £460m for half year sales

STRONG financial results for the first half of the year have been unveiled by Central England Co-op.

Across its 400 stores, including Dudley, West Bromwich, Oldbury and Great Barr, the business saw sales rise 2.6 per cent to £460.2 million. Trading profit of £11.9m was better than expected but still £1m less than at the same point last year due to improved staff pay and other costs. The Co-op also distributed £2.6m among its members, workforce and the community.

The Central England Co-op employs 8,000 people. It opened five food stores and four funeral homes, refitting 25 sites during the first six months of the year, as part of £19.2m investment. Chief executive Martyn Cheate said: "We are encouraged by our progress."

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# 14 Mental health trust spending less on temps

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, October 12, 2017

A MENTAL health trust spent almost £4 million on temporary staff over the last 12 months.

Figures have revealed a total of £3.9 million was paid out on agency workers by the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust in the year to October.

But the trust said the amount was down from 2015/16 when £6.5 million was spent on temporary staff. The spend is in line with the NHS agency cap, which health organisations should not go above.

Bosses at the trust, which provides mental health services to children and adults in the two boroughs, said they had been working hard to reduce agency spend in recent years. A greater focus was now put on recruitment and using bank staff and that was credited for getting the figure down.

A spokesman for the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust, said: "We have reduced agency spend since 2015/16 from £6.5 million down to £4.8m in 2016/17.

"We are on target to meet the NHS Improvement agency figure for this year of £4m through a number of initiatives including making use of our bank staff and also by recruiting staff to roles.

"We have been working hard to reduce agency costs and meet the NHS target."

NHS bosses have moved to cut the amount being spent on temporary workers.

## Grant helps school to build for early years

A SCHOOL has been given the green light to build an early years facility after receiving a grant of more than £400,000.

The building will be created at Netherbrook Primary School in Netherton after the Education Skills Funding Agency awarded £407,000 to Dudley Council, who will also give £145,000 for the project.



The Glass Blower captures the atmosphere of Stourbridge industry



Painter Keith Turley at work at his easel



The Printer shows another man at work.



The Engine Driver captures what it is like in control on the tracks

# Art imitates working lives

**AN ARTIST from Dudley who has captured Morecambe and Wise and Dusty Springfield on canvas is putting his work on show.**

The display at the Wyre Forest Gallery at Bewdley Museum is part of the Worcestershire town's literary and music festival.

People engaged in everyday work

is the the fascination for portrait painter Keith Turley and Bewdley Festival organisers have arranged for the free admission exhibition, entitled A Fair Day's Work, to run until October 29.

Keith, 68, from Wall Heath, is a member of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists and Dudley Society of Artists and is also president of the Birmingham Arts Circle.

Although this will be his first exhibition in Worcestershire his work is well-known as he has carried out numerous prestigious commissions, including paintings of Leslie Phillips, Morecambe and Wise, Norman Wisdom, Tommy Cooper and Dusty Springfield. He has also illustrated books about the Only Fools and Hoses and the Dad's Army television series and the Carry On films.

Keith prefers human subjects, often working on a large scale and showing people in work environments.

He said: "There are 28 works on show in the exhibition. I am very honoured to have been asked to take part as the county is not short of artists and it is a privilege to be staging this exhibition. Much of my work has a strong Black Country flavour with

The Chainmakers inspired by the Black Country Living Museum and a glassworker from The Red House Glas Cone. There are also other Black Country linked paintings. They are quite large, some five feet high, and not the sort people hang on their walls.

He will be talking about his work at the museum on October 14, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 28 and 29.

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# Adult social care recruitment drive

## Commercial feature

"Transforming services for the most vulnerable in our community and ensuring they are treated with respect, care and kindness is a top priority for us at the council" explains Councillor Nicolas Barlow, Dudley Council's cabinet member for adult social care.

It's this commitment to improving services that is the driving force behind the council's recent recruitment campaign, which will see the authority employ dozens of new staff to help meet the increasing demands on adult social care and reduce pressures on the NHS.

Over the next few weeks the authority is seeking to recruit dedicated, passionate and caring people who all share the same ambition, to change the lives of people across Dudley borough for the better.

A number of fixed term posts are being advertised in various positions, including home care assistants, assistant care co-ordinators and a team assistant.

A full list of more than 60 full time equivalent adult social care jobs including occupational therapists, social and senior social workers, support workers and night sitters can be found at [www.dudley.gov.uk/ascjobs](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/ascjobs)

### Dedicated

The new staff will work within a number of new teams, which will be dedicated to reducing delayed transfer of care, improving the way people move through the system, giving greater opportunity to provide crisis support within a person's home and improving the success of preventative services, which are designed to help people remain independent within their own home.

Funding for the new recruits will come from Dudley Council's one-off grant of £13.9million, awarded by the government earlier this year as part of a national £2billion improved better care fund.



Senior Occupational Therapist Jennifer Robbins talks options with Mrs Marjorie Hill and Maria Perks

Councillor Barlow continues: "We are an authority that is forward thinking and dedicated to doing what we can to help people change their lives for the better.

"We can use this funding to significantly boost our numbers of staff and to create specialised teams to work in areas where we know we need to provide more support.

"It's essential we act now to ensure we can meet the growing demands on services now and in the future.

"This funding is to help improve the performance of the Urgent Care system, specifically by Reducing Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC). Dudley Council is putting every

effort into achieving this with NHS partners."

In this first year, the council has committed £7 million of its improved better care fund grant.

It will be used to launch the council's emergency response team, which will help people who have gone to the hospital's accident and emergency department and need urgent social care support, to return home and prevent an unnecessary admission into hospital.

The team will provide support in the home, give guidance on self care and introduce assisted technology where necessary. This is expected to prevent hundreds of hospital admissions.



Dudley's Home Care Service received a good rating from the Care Quality Commission

Money will also be invested in a community response team to support the West Midlands Ambulance Service when responding to emergency call-outs.

A team of social care and health workers will be able to offer crisis support to people to help them stay in their own home.

### Needs

Another measure will offer a full assessment to people in need of 24-hour support and will take place away from a hospital setting.

This will give people time to recover and allow staff to gather evidence and build a picture of the person's needs in order to help them,

and their family or carers, determine how they should be cared for long term.

Nearly half a million pounds will be spent developing a new approach to how we move and transfer people in their home. Traditionally two members of staff would be needed to operate existing equipment but this new approach will see new aids being introduced, which will only need one social care worker or the individual alone to operate them, freeing up staff time to carry out other duties.

The final measure will be to introduce length of stay targets to reduce delays of hospital discharges for people who are medically fit to return home.

# HELP SHAPE OUR SERVICE

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The duration of these posts are minimum 12 months fixed term from start date with the opportunity of extending the contract up to March 2019 or March 2020 subject to funding

**Application deadline: 29 October 2017**



Please visit [www.dudley.gov.uk/ascjobs](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/ascjobs)

**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council



# All-Stars are turning out at charity match



Mel Eves, Mayor Dave Tyler and Dudley Town chairman Stephen Austin look forward to the charity match

## DUDLEY Town Football Club will again clash with Wolves All-Stars to raise funds for charities.

The teams will go head-to-head at The Dell Stadium in Brierley Hill for the first since Wolves 'thrashed' the Dudley boys 6-0.

There is more than just pride at stake this year as the sides are hoping to raise more than last year's total of £600 for the children's ward at Rus-

sells Hall Hospital and the Mayor of Dudley's charities - Dudley Mind, Dudley Alzheimer's and the YMCA Empty Rooms project.

Mayor Councillor Dave Tyler said: "It's always a great event and the more crowds we can get the better. We're hoping to get a couple of ex-Al-bion players down as well."

The mayor said the he was prepared to dig out his soccer boots. "I have got a pair of football boots but I won't be doing much running," he said. "I

might kick off and I might pass it a few times but I'm certainly not going to work a sweat up."

It was former player and artist Jody Craddock leading the Wolves to a comfortable win under the wing of Wolves All-Stars manager Mel Eves last year. Former player Eves has been in charge of the All-Stars charity team since 1997. Tickets for the match, which kicks off at 2.30pm on November 19, cost £5 adults and £3 children and OAPs. Call 07412 046050.

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# Five-year-old rescued from canal by his pal

**MORGAN** Bridgens didn't think twice when he saw his friend fall into the canal. By the time he got to five-year-old William Smith he had gone under the water and could have drowned had it not been for his actions.

Ten-year-old Morgan described how he managed to pull William to safety from the Black Country canal just in time. His mother Carly Smart said she was immensely proud of her son's life-saving actions.

The drama happened as the pair were playing on a rope swing on the banks on Stourbridge Canal off Longboat Lane in Wordsley. After the rope swing broke William wandered off to get another stick with the hope of fixing it.

## Arms

But Morgan suddenly heard a 'big splash' and went running down a set of steps to where the noise came from. When he got to the bottom he saw Will in the water and was sinking under the surface. Morgan got onto his stomach on the canal path, outstretched his arms and pulled his friend out of the canal.

Carly, 30, a mother-of-three from Wordsley, said: "Morgan panicked at first and didn't know what to do. He told me 'I had to get him out, mom'. He saw Will go under two or three times. When Will went under again, Morgan got him by the arms and pulled him out."

"I didn't know what had happened when Morgan came back home. Morgan sat there all quiet and I knew



**Morgan Bridgens pulled William Smith to safety after he plunged into the canal**

something was wrong. When he told me I was hysterical. I said 'have you got him out?' and he said Will had gone back to his house. I went down to Will's mom's straight away. They only live a few doors down. Will was a bit shook up but he was fine, he was recovering and was in the bath."

Morgan and William both attend Brook Primary in Wordsley. Carly's

youngest son Rio, five, is in William's class, which is how the boys know each other. Carly added: "I'm really proud of Morgan. He has received lots of praise for his actions and it has opened his eyes."

She said she wanted to highlight what happened as a warning to parents about the dangers of canals that criss-cross the Black Country.

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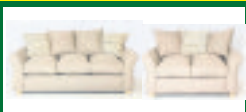


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Beginners: Mon 30 Oct. 14.30-16.00.	6 wks. £34.20#
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Beginners: Wed 1 Nov. 11.30-13.00.	6 wks. £34.20#
Cont Beg: Tue 31 Oct. 14.30-16.00.	6 wks. £34.20#
Improvers: Wed 1 Nov. 09.30-11.00.	6 wks. £34.20#
Intermediates: Wed 1 Nov. 14.00-15.30.	6 wks. £34.20#

## BASIC COMPUTER COURSES

<b>COMPUTERS : THE BASICS</b>	
Mon 30 Oct. 14.30-16.30.	3 wks. £22.80#
<b>COMPUTER SKILLS: INTERNET+ E MAIL</b>	
Mon 20 Nov. 14.30-16.30.	3 wks. £22.80#

## COMPUTER COURSES (Basic computer and internet skills are required)

<b>PHOTOSHOP 2</b>	
Mon 30 Oct. 9.30-11.30.	6 wks. £45.60#
<b>MASTERING YOUR IPAD</b>	
Tues 17 Oct. 09.30-11.30.	3 wks. £22.80#
<b>INTRO TO MANUAL BOOK KEEPING</b>	
Mon 16 Oct. 19.00-21.00.	8 wks. £60.80#
<b>BUYING AND SELLING ON E-BAY</b>	
Tues 14 Nov. 9.30-11.30.	4 wks. £30.40#

## HANDICRAFTS

<b>SEWING FOR PLEASURE</b>	
Tues 31 Oct. 09.30-11.30.	6 wks. £41.40#
<b>PATCHWORK SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS</b>	
Wed 1 Nov. 14.30-16.30.	6 wks. £41.40#
<b>UPHOLSTERY &amp; SOFT FURNISHINGS</b>	
Wed 1 Nov. 12.00-14.00.	6wks. £41.40#
<b>SEWING MADE SIMPLE SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS</b>	
Thurs 2 Nov. 18.00-20.00.	6 wks. £41.40#

## MUSIC

<b>PLAY THE GUITAR FOR CHILDREN (8YRS+)</b>	
Beginners: Mon 30 Oct 16.45-17.45	6 wks. ***
Improvers: Mon 30 Oct 17.45-18.45	6 wks. ***
Intermediates: Thurs 2 Nov. 17.45-18.45	6 wks. ***

\*\*\* Please contact Student Services for prices

## WORDSLEY PRESCHOOL / PLAYGROUP

From 2 years, nappy facilities.  
2-3 year old funded places available.  
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Lunch club available. Good Ofsted report.  
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Tel. 01384 918740

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## HEALTH & FITNESS AND DANCE

### LOW IMPACT AEROBICS

Thurs 2 Nov. 18.00-19.00	7 wks. £26.60
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### PILATES

Improvers: Tues 31 Oct. 19.00-20.00.	7 wks. £26.60
Improvers: Wed 1 Nov. 18.30-19.30.	7 wks. £26.60
Improvers: Thurs 2 Nov. 19.05-20.05.	7 wks. £26.60
Improvers: Thurs 2 Nov. 20.10-21.10.	7 wks. £26.60
Beginners @ The Oakfield Centre:	
Fri 03 Nov. 10.00-11.00.	7 wks. £29.40#

### FITNESS YOGA

Tues 31 Oct. 20.05-21.05.	7 wks. £26.60
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### ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS:

Beginners: Tues. 31 Oct. 19.00-19.45.	7 wks. £28.00#
Improvers: Mon. 30 Oct. 19.45-20.30.	7 wks. £28.00#
Advanced: Mon. 30 Oct. 20.30-21.15.	7 wks. £28.00#

### DANCE FIT

Tues 31 Oct. 18.00-19.00.	6 wks. £22.80
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## FAMILY LEARNING

The price includes a place for one adult (aged over 19) and a child.

### TEACH YOUR CHILD TO SWIM

Children 18 mths-4yrs	
Wed 1 Nov. 09.30-10.15.	6 wks. £20.25#
Sat 4 Nov. 08.50-09.20.	6 wks. £13.50#
Sun 5 Nov. 12.45-13.30.	6 wks. £20.25#

### SEW TOGETHER

Thurs 2 Nov. 16.00-17.30.	5 wks. £28.50#
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### FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY

Tues 31 Oct. 16.00-17.30.	5 wks. £28.50#
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## ARTS AND CRAFTS

### CREATIVE WRITING

Mon 30 Oct. 19.00-21.00.	5 wks. £38.00#
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### LEARN TO SCULPT IN STONE

Tue 31 Oct. 19.00 - 21.00.	5 wks. £38.00#
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### SUGARCRAFT FOR BEGINNERS

Tues 31 Oct. 19.00 - 21.00.	5 wks. £43.00#
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### GET COOKING

Thurs 2 Nov. 19.00 - 21.00.	6 wks. <b>**FREE**</b>
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## COMMUNITY SESSIONS

Weekly pay as you go sessions

<b>ADULT SWIMMING:</b> Mon. 12.45-13.30	£3.50
Thurs. 19.00-20.00.	£3.50
<b>AQUAFIT:</b> Fri. 12.15-13.00.	£3.50.
Wed. 19.00-20.00, Sun. 9.00-10.00.	£4.50
<b>FITNESS SWIM:</b> Mon. 18.00-18.45.	£3.00
for 10-19 yrs olds	



## CRAFT FAIR

@ Learning4Life

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th November  
10am — 3pm

Students from L4L will be selling  
items made from the skills they have  
learnt on their courses.



Please contact us if you would like to  
join us and sell your own crafts



**Reduced Fees:** Where you see this # sign the course is supported by The Skills Funding Agency. If you are in receipt of certain benefits fees are reduced to 25%. Price in brackets () includes additional costs.

**Course Dates:** Courses are suspended on 23rd to 29th October unless stated otherwise

**This programme is subject to change:** particularly if we are unable to recruit minimum class numbers. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that this programme and the pricing is accurate at the time of publication, changes and errors may occur. We reserve the right to amend details as required.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A 1.2% charge will be added to all credit card payments processed through Dudley MBC. Debit card payments remain unchanged.

Use your Smartphone to read our QR (quick response) code. It will take you to our website.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### DUDLEY MBC INDUCTION TRAINING FOR POOLSIDE ASSISTANTS

Mon 2 Jan. 09.00-12.00.	3hrs. £22.50
<b>BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE Level 1</b>	<b>**NEW**</b>
Tues 31 Oct. 18.30-21.00.	26 wks. £375.00#

(Includes examination fee)

### NATIONAL POOL LIFEGUARD

Mon-Sat 23-28 Oct 08.30-17.00	£220.00
Mon-Sat 19-24 Feb 18 08.30-17.00	£220.00

(Includes course manual and assessment fee)

Please check our website for course requirements

## FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

### KEEP SAFE ON THE INTERNET

Fri 24 Nov. 09.30-11.30.	1 wk. £7.20#
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## SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

### INTRO TO BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE

Sat 14 Oct. 9.30-12.30.	1 wk. £20.55
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### INTRO TO EXCEL SPREADSHEETS

Sat 25 Nov. 9.30-12.30.	1wk. £20.55
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### CAKE MAKING FOR BEGINNERS

Sat 14 Oct. 9.30-12.30.	1 wk. £20.55
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### SUGARCRAFT FOR BEGINNERS

Sat 18 Nov. 9.30-12.30.	1 wk. £20.55
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### PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS

Sat 25 Nov. 9.30-12.30.	1 wk. £20.55
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### EMPLOYABILITY AND INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES

Sat 4 Nov. 9.30-12.30.	1 wk. £20.55
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### SEW FOR CHRISTMAS

Sat 11 Nov. 9.30-12.30.	1 wk. £20.55
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## INTENSIVE COURSES

### IMPROVING YOUR OVERLOCKER SKILLS

Fri 03 Nov. 09.30-12.30.	2 wks. £22.80#
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### DECORATE YOUR CHRISTMAS CAKE

Sat 25 Nov. 9.30-12.30.	2 wks. £22.80#
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## FIRST AID

### EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Fri 17 Nov. 9.00-16.00.	1 wk. £38.40
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### PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID.

Fri 20 Oct. 9.00-13.00.	1/2 day. £25.60
Fri 1 Dec. 9.00-13.00.	1/2 day. £25.60

## REGISTER YOUR INTEREST FOR CLASSES STARTING IN JANUARY 2018

### ITALIAN for Beginners MINDFULNESS

### PORTUGUESE Beginners and Improvers

### POTTERY TAI CHI SCULPTURE

### PLAY THE GUITAR for Beginners

## LEARNING4LIFE SWIM SCHOOL

First Steps (ages 3 1/2), Pre Beginners (min age 4), Beginners, Improvers £32.90. Intermediates 1, 2, 3 and Rookie Lifesaving (min age 8), £28.70.

Advanced and Survive & Save (min age 11 1/2) £35.70

Our commitment to you: Quality, experienced teachers Competitive prices Parents Home Portal allowing parents to view children's progress online  
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For more information on availability please call 01384 816043

## Spaces Available for October / November

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**Tel. 01384 816043.** Mon to Fri. 9.30 - 13.30  
studentservices@learning4life.co.uk www.learning4life.co.uk





# TV comic Dara is fascinated with space

**DARA O'Briain loves the unusual, the quirky, the absurd – and this is clearly demonstrated in his first children's book, *Beyond The Sky*, about the weird and wonderful world of space.**

Unlike other comedians who have written books for children – David Walliams, Russell Brand, Julian Clary and Adrian Edmondson spring to mind - Dara has followed a different course, amusing nine-to-12-year-olds and curious adults with this dip-in treat of fabulous facts which should have the kids – and adults – laughing out loud.

Did you know, for instance, that the European country astronauts always recognised at night was Belgium because it had a law that every road must be lit at night?

Or that Russian astronauts used to urinate on their transfer bus tyres before boarding their rockets?

These, and a host of other interesting facts about space, planets, astronauts and the stars, are featured in the book.

Dara, 45, who is currently writing material for a forthcoming mammoth stand-up tour, says he didn't try the space material out on his own kids.

"I never even thought of doing it for the same reason I don't try out new material on my wife. As a comedy performer you don't try out your jokes on the person nearest to you, because it wears them down and puts tension in the house."

The book may at first sight seem a lighthearted look at space, but the fast-talking Irishman is a heavyweight when it comes to science. He studied mathematical physics at University College Dublin and yet gave up the chance of an academic career for stand-up comedy, which then expanded into TV presenting, hosting topical panel shows like *Mock The Week* and *The Apprentice: You're Fired*.

So, why didn't he choose a scientific career?

"It was the sheer thrill of performance," he muses. "It turned out, to my surprise, that I was a troupier, I wanted to be in front of an audience, which was a major surprise to me, because I wasn't a class clown or anything."

"I stood in front of an audience at university doing debating and the laughs just created a surge inside. Suddenly the dialogue felt good and created a rush. I still feel that now, but it takes more effort - three to six months of writing a two-hour show, but it's a more substantial kind of a feeling now."

"I still get fidgety sitting in a theatre, and think I'd rather be in front of this crowd than in this crowd. That's a performer's thing."

He may be reaching out to youngsters with this book, but he's given talks on stargazing at schools, including his own children's school, so he's fairly familiar with his audience.

Switching from writing for children to writing for adults wasn't too arduous, he reflects.

"I went straight from the book to writing a grown-up stand-up show. That's a gear change. But when you start gigging, you have time to do other things - and I was a kids' TV presenter for a couple of years."

The stand-up tour material is getting there, slowly, he says. He will feature Brexit although he's steering clear of Trump and North Korea, he says.

"When you're writing a stand-up show, you're writing it for a two-year tour. The same show will finish in Oslo in 2019 or in Melbourne in 2020. You can't do this week's Trump story. The subjects have to be strong enough to withstand being told 150 times."

"Jokes which are funny the first 60 times may become boring by the 61st time. It's amazing how much stuff you shed over the course of a tour."

He's hoping to do another series of BBC Two's *Stargazing* next year and is hosting another *Robot Wars*, but won't be doing any more series of *The Apprentice: You're Fired!* I did five years and I'm very happy to hand it over to someone else. It was a fun show to do, but you can interview enough people in shiny suits who want to be on *The Apprentice*, and I think I had my fill with 84 of them."

*Beyond The Sky* by Dara O'Briain is published by Scholastic, priced £12.99.



Make sure there's a natural consequence for losing something – replacing an item with their own money

# How to help children learn to look after their things

By Lisa Salmon

**IF you're sick of your child losing their possessions, try some of these tips to help them understand value and learn to look after things.**

Young children losing their possessions is the bane of nearly every parent's life. Research has found that mums spend more than £1,500 replacing items lost by their kids between the ages of three and 10, plus nearly two days looking for a total of 483 lost items over the years.

The most common items to lose are hats, jumpers and cuddly toys, and the research by children's label manufacturer NeatlyNamed found 62% of lost possessions such as coats, school uniform items and books, are never found again. Around half of mothers say they've known their children to lose items within just 20 minutes of getting them, and 40% admit they've had to replace the same item repeatedly. But six in 10 mums say losing items as a child helps them appreciate the value of things later in life.

"How you deal with this when they're very young makes it easier - or not so easy if you don't do it properly - when they get a bit older," says Parenting expert Suzie Hayman, agony aunt for *Woman* magazine.

"It's your job as a parent to be in charge. You cannot expect a young person to manage looking after their stuff - you have to be hyper-vigilant and gradually let them understand that it's their job to look after their stuff."

Here are some top tips to help your kids keep tabs on their possessions...

1. Get them into a routine to help them remember to put their stuff away in or out of the house.
2. Put a checklist above their backpacks or even just inside it, to remind them what goes inside.
3. Make sure there's a natural consequence for losing something – replacing an item with their own money, or if they're too young for that, or simply going without a coat and getting cold if they've lost their new one.
4. Don't just tell them how to keep track of their possessions – ask them what they think would help them not to lose things.
5. Explain value to young children, and play games where they buy things with pretend money.
6. Label everything with their full name, and keep reminding them about looking after their things.
7. By the time children go to secondary school, they should be fully responsible for their possessions. "They should realise you had to pay for it and if they lose it they have to pay for it," says Suzie.
8. Don't bail children out if they lose things. "It seems the easy option because



Scolding a child will not help them to grow up and become more responsible



Label everything with their full name

you don't have an argument or tears," says Suzie. "But what you will have is more losses, because why should they ever learn if you're always going to bail them out? They're always going to look to you to help because you've shown them you're a sucker. That's not a good lesson, and you're not helping them to be responsible."

9. Come up with ideas to make sure they don't lose things, or have them stolen.

If they lose something, walk them back through when they last had it, where could it have gone, etc.

10. Young children can't be expected to be responsible when they're little, but they can expect you to teach them responsibility.

11. Teach them how to look after their possessions in the same way you'd teach them to cross the road. "Start by holding their hand, then teaching them how to do it,



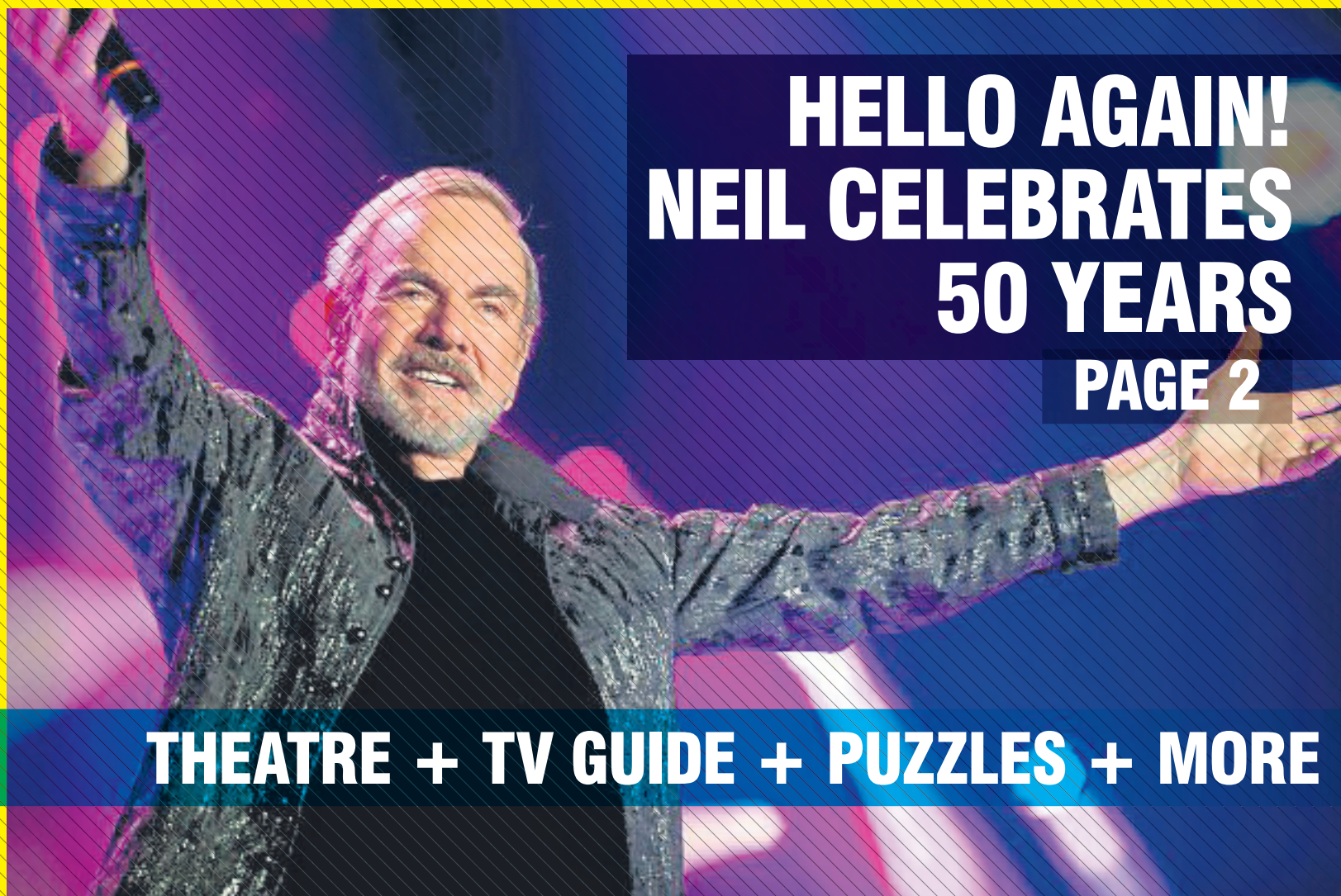
If they lose something, check when they last had it

then you let them have a few practice runs while you're looking after them, and then finally you let them cross on their own," explains Suzie.

12. Rewards can be used if a child is struggling with not losing things and doesn't lose anything for a certain period.

13. Remember children are much less likely to lose something when they've paid for it themselves.





## HELLO AGAIN! NEIL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS PAGE 2

**THEATRE + TV GUIDE + PUZZLES + MORE**

### Welcome to the all new Britt Brewery at The Britannia Inn, the first Brewery in Rowley Village for 100 years.

**At The Britt we like to make you feel right at home, think comfy chairs and sofas, open fires and a warm and welcoming environment.**

Run by a CAMRA award winning landlord and his team, The Britt offers 10 real ales and 6 real ciders as well as an extensive gin menu.

The kitchen is open Mon-Fri 12-2pm and 5-9pm and Sat 12-9pm serving a range of locally sourced sausages, delicious pies and traditional faggots as well as tasty burgers. A full home cooked Sunday lunch is available between 12-6pm with a choice of 3 meats and heaps of delicious veggies, served with lashings of gravy.

If that's not enough to encourage you to visit, try out our entertainment offering which includes a DJ every Friday and live music every Saturday.

**So...what are you waiting for?**

Pop in for a pint or 2, sit by the fire and enjoy the all new Britt

Brewery at the Britannia Inn.

To keep up to date with what's new at The Britt, visit our Facebook page @thebrittbrewery



**Cheers**  
to all our  
old and new  
clients...



**THE BRITANNIA**  
PUB & BREWERY

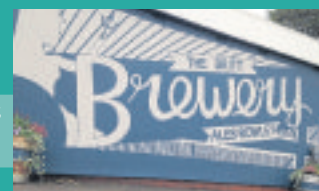
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**FRIDAY NIGHT DJ  
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Food being served 12 noon - 2pm;  
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**LUNCH**

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Popadoms & Chutneys

*Xmas Special Starters*  
A Selection of our best Turkey, Lamb, Fish  
7 vegetable Starters.

*Main*  
Handi Lamb - is a traditional Asian dish  
cooked with garlic, ginger & fresh spices. Medium.  
Chicken Tikka Makhani - A mouth-watering dish,  
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Roast vegetables cooked in light spices.  
Naan and Minced Pilau Rice

*Extras*  
Dessert, Coffee

**Traditional English Menu Available**

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£15.00pp Deposit: required

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Surcharge for Kids & King Prawns.  
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**Christmas  
Party**  
**Party Menu**

*Starters*  
Popadoms & Chutneys  
Mixed Starters

*Main*  
Any Main

*Extras*  
Rice & Naan and Vegetable  
(to share between 2 people)  
Vanilla Or Kulfi Ice Cream  
Coffee

**Deposit Required**

**12.95pp** **14.95pp**  
Sunday-Thursday Friday-Saturday

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# Neil: it's not so easy to write a hit record

**E**ver-green singer Neil Diamond will return to Birmingham to headline the city's Arena tonight and Genting Arena on Sunday. The star is celebrating his 50th anniversary, having last played Birmingham when he headlined the Genting Arena in 2015.

Having sold more than 130 million albums worldwide, Neil has an enviable back catalogue that includes Sweet Caroline, Cracklin' Rosie, Love on the Rocks and Forever in Blue Jeans.

Neil is delighted to be back on the road after taking a couple of years out from his regular touring work.

"This is my usual schedule. Every two or three years I go out there. But the reaction to this one has been a little different. We've put 50 cities on sale and the response has been way high. It's been very heartening to me. I've been doing this 50 years and to have an audience that's out there and anxious and enthusiastic is exciting."

He didn't imagine he'd have made it this far. Neil is all too aware that rock'n'roll careers seldom last into their 50th year and when he started out artists tended to just have two or three records. After that, they were bombed out by their record company and it was on to the next.

He's not the only one who's lasted the course, however. Nobody imagined The Rolling Stones would still be singing Satisfaction 50 years later.

## ENDURING

But Neil was part of a generation that also included other enduring stars, such as Mick Jagger, Paul McCartney, Bob Dylan and Brian Wilson. Before them, artists didn't have long careers - with very few exceptions.

Neil has a vast catalogue of work from which to choose when he is playing live. He usually finds the opening song and if that gets him excited, the rest of the show writes itself. There are ups and downs, valleys, left turns, quiet moments and bombastic moments. "You just keep adding songs and work from the song before it. Eventually you get to a point after two hours where you think, 'OK, let's wrap it'."

However, it's not all blockbuster tunes. Neil is keen to find space for newer cuts so that he can keep the show exciting for him and the rest of the band. He's also played songs by Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell and more.

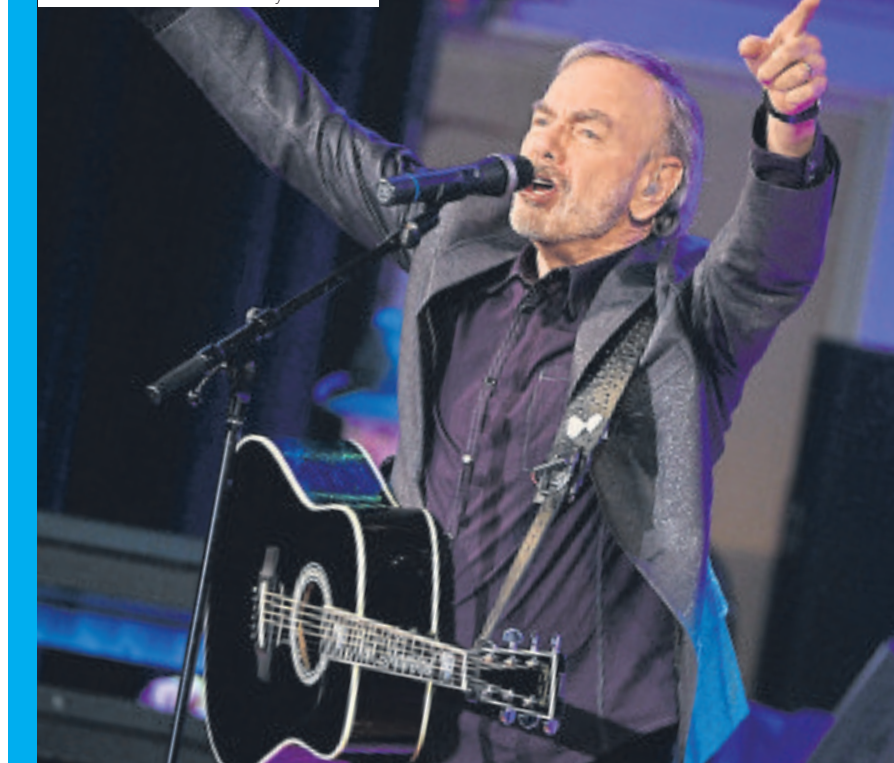
But it's tunes like Sweet Caroline that the fans want - and it's a tune he's played more than 1,500 times live.

Neil's other ultra-popular songs are Cherry Cherry, Cracklin' Rose, I Am I Said, Brother's Love Travelling Salvation Show, Beautiful Noise, Holly Holy, Forever in Blue Jeans, America and You Don't Bring Me Flowers.

"I want to create a list of songs that I haven't done before. 'If You Go Away' is as definite candidate. 'Suzanne' is a definite candidate. I have a list, but I want to keep some of them surprises. There will be a bunch of additions to the set list. Hopefully they'll be accepted by people. If they are, we'll keep doing them."

The veteran songwriter is making the most

Forever in blue jeans - Neil's on his 50th anniversary tour



of his 50th anniversary and a career-spanning box set features 50 hand-picked songs from his career.

The star began his career as a Brill Building songwriter and wrote for Jay and the Americans, The Monkees and other stars. He was the brains behind I'm a Believer and A Little Bit Me, a Little Bit You, among many others.

Stars flocked to play his music, with his work covered by musicians including Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Johnny Cash and UB40, who turned his 1968 song Red Red Wine into a Number One in 1983.

While Neil has influenced many other stars, he was shaped by artists from a different era.

He loved Lonnie Donegan's Rock Island Line, The Everly Brothers' Bye Bye Love, The Rolling Stones' Satisfaction, Peter Paul and Mary's Blowin' In The Wind and Ritchie Valens' La Bamba.

During those early years, Neil had no real thought of becoming a singer. He wanted to go to medical school to become a scientist. However, he decided he wasn't smart enough

*I've been doing it a long time now. I can't find another way to make a living*

for that and instead he dropped out of New York University after his junior year to take a job on Tin Pan Alley. He was paid \$50 a week and it took eight years to write his first hit, Solitary Man, in 1966.

Despite his brilliance, he's never found it particularly easy to write a hit. He told an interviewer recently: "You would think that after all these years of writing I would have learnt to do it quickly and gracefully and easily, but it doesn't seem to work out that way."

"Every song is different, so it doesn't help me very much to have had years of experience. It's hard work, and it's not getting any easier."

"But all right, nobody told me it was gonna be easy. And so what? I'm a ditch-digger when I'm writing songs. My back hurts? Who cares? I gotta get that ditch dug deep and strong and it's gotta serve its purpose. There are no short cuts. There are only long cuts. That's what it is. But I've been doing it a long time now. I can't find another way to make a living."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



The Vryll Society from Liverpool



## Vryll have licence to thrill in psychedelic triple bill

Gig of the week is a rare foray into the West Midlands for Liverpool's fast rising psychedelic rockers The Vryll Society.

The band who shared bills with Blossoms, The Coral and The Kooks recently released a single, Shadow Of A Wave, and the swaggering indie pop quintet have picked up a big following on Merseyside. They will be headlining a formidable triple bill at Wolverhampton's Newhampton Arts Centre next Thursday (October 19) warming up for the Ritual Union festival on Oxford's Cowley Road the following Saturday.

Also at this feast of psychedelia near Molineux will be Sweden's Josefin Öhrn + The Liberation and Sheffield heavy psych outfit Baba Naga.

Little Mix will be giving a shout out to their exes

at the Genting Arena tomorrow (Friday) before returning in November. That night rock fans may prefer Birmingham's Broken Witt Rebels at the Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton or 68 Guns outfit The Alarm at Birmingham O2 Academy. Young Pilgrims bring their brassy grooves to Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Saturday but it will be Brass In Pocket at the Symphony Hall on Sunday when Chrissie Hynde brings The Pretenders. Or end the weekend at Bilston for some Hocus Pocus with Dutch rockers Focus at the Robin 2.

Major gigs at the Symphony Hall include soul singer Michael Kiwanuka (Monday), Soft Cell's Marc Almond (Tuesday) and folk/rockers The Waterboys (next Thursday).

## Bedlam looks at healing through arts



The healing power of art comes under the spotlight in Bedlam, Birmingham's third arts and mental health festival, which starts on Tuesday.

Shaped by people who have experienced mental ill health, the festival celebrates arts and wellbeing and is being held at venues across the city, chiefly Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the Mac in Cannon Hill Park.

The three-week festival features performance poet, Lemn Sissay, pictured, performing his one-man play Something Dark (October

24, Mac); poetry and dance event Kahaani (Oct 27, Mac); Birmingham actress Olivia Winteringham looks at love and grief and how the state of our minds can affect how we remember in Delightful (Oct 26-28, Birmingham Rep).

Charming family show The Girl and the Giraffe (Oct 24-26, Mac) uses puppetry to explore wellbeing and friendship from a child's perspective in matinee performances. A Wellbeing Discovery Day (Oct 22, Rep) will offer yoga, meditation, tai chi and a range of mindfulness activities for all ages.

Festival organiser Steve Ball, an

associate director at The Rep, said: "Evidence shows that the arts can have a positive impact on wellbeing yet there have been too few opportunities for people affected by mental ill health to engage with the arts. We hope that this festival will change that."

"Our inaugural festival in 2013 attracted 1,650 participants and audience members and increased to 2,408 in 2015. With the addition of new partners and venues the 2017 festival promises to be bigger than ever." Visit [www.birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk) website.

## Halloween comes early to the Grand

Get into the Halloween spirit early when mirth and the macabre merge in The Addams Family musical, staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday (October 17-21).

Rising star of stage Carrie Hope Fletcher, pictured, who is also massively popular on social media, will take on the iconic role of Wednesday Addams with Samantha Womack as her vampish mother Morticia and Les Dennis as ghoulish Uncle Fester.



## Dance star Carlos brings Cuba's best

Dance superstar Carlos Acosta will make a guest appearance with his Acosta Danza troupe at Birmingham Hippodrome. The Havana-based company features dancers from Cuba gathered by the former Royal Ballet star to perform works by choreographers from Acosta's homeland, plus leading American and European dance creators. Debut is staged from Wednesday to Saturday (October 18-21). Contact Dance Company have been working with Wolverhampton's Mosaic Disability Theatre on dance duets being performed tomorrow (Friday), matinee and evening performances, in Two Fold at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre. Lucy Suggate brings physical expression to the electronic music of James Holden in Pilgrim at the Hippodrome's Patrick Centre venue on October 20.

## Offering a warm welcome



Managers Paul and Carol always ensure a warm welcome to customers both old and new at Blackheath's Shoulder of Mutton pub.

For all the sports fans they boast three large TV screens featuring all sports on Sky, BT and all BOX OFFICE Events not to mention AT THE RACES.

For those who like 'doing' rather than 'watching', there is the availability of the pool table and dart board.

### Loyalty

The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including four 'Real Ales' which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoes Entire, plus many more!

The pub also run a loyalty scheme which means customers can get 10p back on their card for every pound they spend.

A pub spokesman added: "With a juke box and free WIFI to compliment the regular entertainment every Friday, customers cannot ask for much more from a local pub!"

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CHOICE



**Lucy Worsley**  
**Lucy Worsley's Nights at the Opera (BBC2, 9pm)**  
Part one of two. The history of some of the world's greatest operas, and how they reflect the hopes and fears of the cultures they were written in. The first episode focuses on four operas written in Europe between the 17th and 19th centuries – Monteverdi's The Coronation of Poppea, Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro, Beethoven's Fidelio and Verdi's Nabucco – and explores the political backdrop of the time.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.15 Money for Nothing. (R) 2.45 Film: Gnomeo & Juliet. (2011) Animated comedy, with the voices of James McAvoy and Emily Blunt. 4.00 Final Score. 5.10 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.40 BBC News. 5.50 Regional Programme.**  
**6.00 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a family-themed of the general knowledge quiz, featuring Robert Lindsay, Merrill and Jay Osmond, Richard Herring and Richard Blackwood.  
**6.45 Strictly Come Dancing.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman host as the 13 remaining couples once again take to the stage to demonstrate whether another week of training has paid off. As ever, head judge Shirley Ballas and her fellow panellists Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood are on hand to deliver their expert opinions on the stars' performances. At the end of the show, voting lines are opened for members of the public to have their say on the evening's routines, with the results being combined with the judges' scores in the next edition to determine which competitors will be going head-to-head in the dance-off.  
**8.40 Casualty.** Ethan learns the truth about Connie's illness, and she blackmails him into performing an urgent surgical procedure on her. Meanwhile, Alicia pines ahead of her driving test.  
**9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes is excited about Rory and Dino's big day, until she meets their flamboyant wedding planner, while Father Damien raises concerns about the ceremony. (R)  
**10.00 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.**  
**10.20 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Liverpool v Manchester United at Anfield and Crystal Palace v Chelsea at Selhurst Park.  
**11.45 The NFL Show.** Mark Chapman looks at the major stories shaping the NFL world.  
**12.15 Film: Reasonable Doubt. (2014) 1.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.40 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.15 How We Won the War. (R) 6.45 Animal Park Summer Special. (R) 7.30 Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) 8.00 Deadly 60. (R) 8.30 Show Me What You're Made Of. 9.00 Saturday Mash-Up! 11.00 Mountain Lions – Big Cats in High Places; Natural World. (R) 12.00 Rick Stein's Long Weekends. (R) 1.00 Coast. (R) 1.30 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands. 2.30 India: Nature's Wonderland. (R) 3.30 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Mastermind. (R) 5.00 The Big Family Cooking Showdown. (R)  
**6.00 Anglesey: Island Life.** Two descendants of the first Marquess of Anglesey revisit their childhood home, while the head of the Anglesey Druid Order celebrates summer solstice.  
**6.30 Gardeners' World.** Monty Don adds gooseberries to his fruit garden, divides and moves herbaceous perennials and advises on the best bulbs to plant for cut flowers next year. (R)  
**7.30 Front Row.** Giles Coren and his guests discuss some of this week's cultural highlights, and Samira Ahmed interviews Kate Winslet about romance-disaster film The Mountain Between Us.  
**8.00 Britain Afloat.** Mary-Ann Ochota's boating documentary continues as she turns attention to narrow boats, which helped power Britain's industrial revolution, and shaped the lives of canal workers.  
**8.30 Dad's Army.** Sergeant Wilson is appointed manager of the Eastgate branch of the bank. Comedy, starring John Le Mesurier. (R)  
**9.00 Lucy Worsley's Nights at the Opera.** Part one of two. The history of some of the world's greatest operas, beginning with the political climate behind famous works by Monteverdi, Mozart, Beethoven and Verdi.  
**10.00 Live at the Apollo.** With Joe Lycett and Phil Wang. (R)  
**10.30 Later – with Jools Holland.** With Robert Plant, St Vincent, Nick Mulvey, Kelela and John Moreland.  
**11.35 Film: The British Guide to Showing Off. (2011) Part-** animated documentary about Andrew Logan's Alternative Miss World show, celebrating some of the most memorable contestants featured over the 40 years of the event.  
**1.05 Film: The Hunters. (1996) 3.00 This Is BBC Two.****

ITV

**6.00 CITV: Sooty. 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Super. (R) 7.00 Mission Employable. (R) 7.05 Oddbods. (R) 7.10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. 9.05 Scrambled!: Adventure Time. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Saturday Morning with James Martin. 11.25 Gino's Italian Escape – Islands in the Sun. (R) 11.55 ITV News; Weather. 12.00 The X Factor: Six Chair Challenge. (R) 1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket. Coverage of today's race meetings at Newmarket and York. 4.15 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 4.45 Little Big Shots. (R) 5.45 Regional Programme ; Weather. 5.55 ITV News; Weather.  
**6.15 Cannonball.** Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which contestants tackle a series of water-based, obstacle course challenges in the hope of claiming the Cannonball Cup.  
**7.15 The Chase: Celebrity Special.** New series. The star-filled version of the quiz show returns, as Christian O'Connell, Carrie Grant, Naomi Wilkinson and Dave Johns take on one of the show's resident experts.  
**8.15 The X Factor: Six Chair Challenge.** The dreaded Six Chair Challenge phase of the contest reaches its midway point, as the performers each take to the stage individually, in a bid to win one of the six seats on the stage – and at place in the Judges' Houses round. However, even those performers who manage to claim a chair are not safe, as judges Simon Cowell, Louis Walsh, Sharon Osbourne and Nicole Scherzinger all retain the right to evict previously selected contestants in favour of acts that follow, and host Dermot O'Leary is on hand to console those unfortunate performers who find themselves giving up their place to another contestant.  
**10.15 The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined by guests Stormzy, Annette Bening and Jamie Bell.  
**11.20 ITV News; Weather.**  
**11.40 Film: The Last Boy Scout. (1991) 1.30 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Hungry Sailors. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.****

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 Marathon: Yorkshire. 7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.30 The Big Bang Theory. 9.55 The Big Bang Theory. 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. 10.50 The Simpsons. (R) 11.20 The Simpsons. (R) 11.50 Come Dine with Me. (R) 12.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 12.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 2.30 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) 3.30 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) 4.30 Best Laid Plans. 5.35 Location, Location, Location. (R)  
**6.30 Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00 Rivers with Jeremy Paxman.** The presenter and fishing enthusiast travels along four of England's greatest rivers, exploring their history, traditions and wildlife. The first episode follows the Tweed along the English-Scottish border, where he helps to shear Cheviot sheep, tags osprey chicks, goes in search of Merlin's grave and discovers the origins of famous border ballads. (R)  
**8.00 Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson.** Time Team host Tony Robinson embarks on a final trek along one of Britain's ancient byways. This time, having previously travelled along a Bronze Age trackway, he turns his attention to a relatively modern route. Originally a Roman road, Dere Street stretched from York through to the Central Belt of Scotland, but its Roman name has been lost to history. Passing north through Hadrian's Wall, Tony contemplates the ancient night sky, braves the roar of a Celtic horn, and mixes medieval potions. Last in the series.  
**9.00 Film: Non-Stop. (2014)** An air marshal on a transatlantic flight receives mysterious messages in which an anonymous terrorist threatens to kill one passenger every 20 minutes unless a ransom is paid. He searches the plane for the criminals responsible, but his investigation is threatened when he is framed as being the mastermind behind the plot. Action thriller, starring Liam Neeson, Julianne Moore and Lupita Nyong'o.  
**11.05 Film: Tower Heist. (2011)** Crime comedy, starring Ben Stiller.  
**1.00 The Last Leg. (R) 1.55 Hollyoaks. 4.05 Building the Dream. (R)****

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.20 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.55 The Gadget Show. (R) 11.45 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.40 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.40 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 2.40 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 3.40 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 4.40 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 5.35 5 News Weekend. 5.40 Film: A Bridge Too Far. (1977) Fact-based Second World War drama, with Dirk Bogarde.  
**9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Fulham v Preston North End at Craven Cottage, Leeds United v Reading at Elland Road, and Wolverhampton Wanderers v Aston Villa at Molineux.  
**9.45 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Fleetwood Town v Rochdale at Highbury Stadium, and Luton Town v Stevenage at Kenilworth Road.  
**10.15 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** The drama returns with a case about a youngster who appears to have been abducted, a fate that befell her adoptive parents' biological daughter 10 years previously. (R)  
**11.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** Benson and Stabler are called to the hospital after the reported rape of a 10-year-old girl, and a media frenzy is sparked when another victim comes forward. (R)  
**12.05 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10 The EastEnders Murderers: True Crime, Real Tragedy.** A documentary exploring the stories behind the deaths of Gemma McCluskie and Sian Blake, who were both stars of one of Britain's best-loved soaps, EastEnders. (R) **4.00 Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World.** Nine-year-old Jack Joe decides he is old enough to move into his own trailer. Francie, Johnny and Margaret attend the funeral of their grandfather Simey Doherty. Last in the series. (R) **4.50 Divine Designs.** St Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral, London. (R) **5.20 Wildlife SOS.** The work of an animal sanctuary. (R) **5.45 Chinese Food in Minutes.** Two estate agents learn how to make classic oriental dishes. (R)**

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00 The Incredible Human Journey 8.00 Wild China 9.00 Beck: Buried Alive 10.25 Beck: Room 302 11.55 Top of the Pops: 1984 12.35 Big Hits: TOPP 1964 to 1975 2.00 Wild China 3.00 Close**  
**ITV2**  
**12.20 Take Me Out 1.35 You've Been Framed! Top 100 Kids 2.35 The X Factor: Six Chair Challenge 4.05 Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) 5.05 FYI Daily 5.10 Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) 5.45 Film: Liar Liar (1997) 6.45 FYI Daily 6.50 Film: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) 8.30 FYI Daily 8.35 Film: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) 10.15 Celebrity Juice 11.05 Family Guy 12.25 American Dad! 12.55 Timewasters 1.55 Bromans 2.50 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen**  
**ITV3**  
**12.00 Lewis 2.00 Rosemary & Thyme 3.00 Foyle's War 7.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Lewis 1.05 On the Buses 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping**  
**ITV4**  
**1.05 Storage Wars 2.05 Film: The Way West (1967) 3.05 FYI Daily 3.10 Film: The Way West (1967) 4.30 Film: Jeremiah Johnson (1972) 5.30 Film: Jeremiah Johnson (1972) 6.50 Hornblower 9.00 Film: Pale Rider (1985) 10.00 FYI Daily 10.05 Film: Pale Rider (1985) 11.20 Film: Se7en (1995) 12.20 Film: Se7en (1995) 2.00 The Classic Car Show 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping**  
**E4**  
**11.30 The Goldbergs 2.00 The Big Bang Theory 3.00 Don't Tell the Bride 4.00 The Great British Bake Off 5.15 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2 (2012) 11.20 Gogglebox 1.30 The Inbetweeners 2.35 Rude Tube 3.25 Gogglebox 4.20 How I Met Your Mother 5.05 Rude(ish) Tube**  
**Film4**  
**11.00 Sunshine on Leith (2013) 1.00 Stuart Little 2 (2002) 2.30 Titanic (1997) 6.15 The Hunger Games (2012) 9.00 Wild (2014) A woman attempts to turn her life around by embarking on an epic, solo trek along America's Pacific Crest Trail. Drama based on a true story, starring Reese Witherspoon. 11.20 Everly (2014) 1.10 Blue Ruin (2014) 3.05 Close**

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

FANTASTIC CARVERY 7 DAYS A WEEK

**They always say never judge a book by its cover so we decided to check out The Park Lane Tavern in Colley Gate, and I have to say what was on offer in there was a total surprise.**



It serves a carvery option 7 days a week from midday which consists of a choice of 4 meats, turkey, beef, pork and gammon and accompanied by stuffing, Yorkshire puddings and up to 12 vegetables, topped off with what they call their “secret recipe gravy” known also as what mother used to make! All this for just £4.99 for a lunchtime meal or £5.99 evenings and Saturdays and £7.99 for Sunday lunch represents extremely good value by today’s standards.

They also don’t forget their mini diners with ‘Kids Eat Free’ Monday to Saturday between 3pm and 6pm and during school holidays it’s All Day Monday to Saturday.

But it doesn’t stop their they also have a full main menu consisting of the classic pub favourites such as steaks, mixed grills, burgers and fish and chips, where the fish would not be out of place in any issue of ‘Moby Dick’. To finish is there very tempting dessert menu, that's if you have room after the size of meals you get at The Park Lane Tavern.

Then if that’s not enough choice for you you can also choose for the breakfast which is served Friday, Saturday and Sunday 08.30am until 11.00am. Their breakfast is a buffet style ‘All you can eat’ with enough choice to satisfy any diner from eggs 2 ways, bacon, sausage, mushrooms, baked beans, hash browns, black pudding, grilled fresh tomatoes, toast & fried bread. There’s even



jam for your toast if you still not full after all that.

Half Price Monday

They also host special evenings like their ‘Half Price Monday’ which has proven to be very popular, and why not, already reasonably priced selected main meals off their main menu (which includes steaks) at half price served between 5pm and 8pm every Monday. Also their psychic evenings where for £15 you get a reading from a medium and a carvery, for those believers amongst you that must be a bargain.

You get a very friendly feeling when you enter The Park Lane Tavern and that’s mostly down to the staff. Happy to see you and always keen to help. They have a lot of regular customers and it’s been known for a customer’s drink to be poured and waiting for them before they reach the bar, you don’t see that at many places nowadays.

There are no airs or graces at The Park Lane Tavern, you get delicious food at great prices served by happy staff in a comfortable environment. No wonder this place has people returning time after time.







FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

**Resident Evil: Retribution, Channel 5, 11.05pm**

Zombie fighter Alice finds herself trapped in a top-secret underground base as a virus sweeps the world, turning the human race into the undead. She battles through the complex in search of those responsible for the outbreak and faces an old friend, now under the control of her enemies. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Milla Jovovich, Sienna Guillory and Michelle Rodriguez. (2012)

TUESDAY

**Damaged, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A high-school teacher's life is turned upside down when a new student moves into the area and they develop a mutual attraction for each other, leading to a string of undesirable events. Thriller, starring Chris Klein, Merritt Patterson and Tasya Teles. (2014)

WEDNESDAY

**Lifetime of Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

Returning home for her brother's funeral, Sayre Hoyle attempts to unravel the truth about his death. While she is in the neighbourhood, she must also deal with her strained relationship with her corrupt businessman father and the romantic attentions of his lawyer. Mystery, starring Shenae Grimes-Beech, Sean Faris and John Schneider. (2016)



Instinct, Friday, Channel 4, 12.10am

THURSDAY

**Fatal Friends, Channel 5, 3.10pm**

Quiet teenage musician Ashley is delighted when she befriends new student Michelle, until the girl shows worrying signs of being possessive. When a strange series of events threatens to disrupt Ashley's family, school life and a budding relationship, she realises she has to put a stop to Michelle's destructive behaviour. Thriller, starring Kristen Prout. (2015)

FRIDAY

**Instinct, Channel 4, 12.10am**

A prison psychologist probes the mind of a maximum-security inmate, an expert on primate behaviour, to find out what made the zoologist go berserk and murder two park rangers in Rwanda. Drama, inspired by Daniel Quinn's novel Ishmael, starring Anthony Hopkins and Cuba Gooding Jr. (1999)

# Going behind the scenes of a memorable occasion

It was one of the biggest boxing bouts in recent history – a clash of generations between an upcoming young talent and one of the sport's greatest-ever champions.

Back in April, Anthony Joshua fought Wladimir Klitschko for the IBF, WBA and IBO heavyweight titles in front of 90,000 fans at Wembley Stadium.

It was the largest-ever attendance for a boxing bout on British soil and the most spectators for a heavyweight fight anywhere in the world since The Long Count Fight between Gene Tunney and Jack Dempsey in Chicago in 1927.

For once, the much-hyped event wasn't an anti-climax. After a close and cautious first four rounds, 'AJ' came out and battered 'Dr Steelhammer' to the canvas in the fifth.

However, the 41-year-old Ukrainian rose up and dominated his younger opponent for the remainder of the round, before battering him and scoring his own knockdown in round six.

The next few rounds were again cautious, both men wary of each other, until a reinvigorated Joshua attacked his opponent in round 11, sending him to the canvas.

Klitschko again rose up, but Joshua knocked him down for a second time in the round, before the referee stopped the fight.

This documentary follows Joshua in the final hours leading up to the historic fight.

It also provides an intimate insight into the young champion at home the night before and in his dressing room as the clock ticked down to the opening bell.

The programme also features a look at the career of the Watford fighter, who turned 28 on Sunday.

As an amateur, Joshua represented Britain at the 2012 Olympics, winning a gold medal in the super-heavyweight division.

He is also the second boxer, after Joe Frazier, to win a world heavyweight title whilst still reigning as Olympic champion at the top weight.

But before his success in the ring he had his fair share of problems.

In 2009, Joshua was put on remand in Reading Prison for what he describes as "fighting and other crazy stuff". He was made to wear an electronic tag on his ankle when released.

Then in March 2011, Joshua was pulled over by the police for speeding in Colindale, North London.

He was found with 80oz of herbal cannabis hidden in a sports bag in his Mercedes and charged with possession with intent to supply a class B drug, an offence that carries a maximum 14-year sentence.

Joshua was suspended from GB boxing squad and was sentenced to a 12-month community order and 100 hours' unpaid work after pleading guilty at crown court.

As well as profiling Joshua, The Fight Of My Life also contains the boxer's own fascinating analysis on what was certainly the biggest test of his career so far and seen by many as a boxing classic.



Anthony Joshua: The Fight Of My Life, Wednesday, BBC1, 10.45pm

# BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

**George Michael: Freedom Channel 4, 9pm**

On Christmas day 2016, music fans around the world were shocked by the death of George Michael. From his days crafting pop classics for Wham! to his later career as respected solo singer-songwriter, he was one of the biggest names in British music. Now this documentary, which Michael finished working on less than two days before his death, explores his incredible life, focusing in particular on the period around the release of his album Listen Without Prejudice Vol 1. As well as featuring Michael talking about love, loss and his battle with the record label, there is also previously unseen footage and interviews with some of his famous friends and fans - including a quintet of supermodels who reunite to talk about their experiences of making the iconic video for Freedom! 90.

TUESDAY

**Chris Packham: Asperger's and Me BBC2, 9pm**

When the naturalist was a lad, autism was a mystery to some, and completely unknown to others. It certainly wasn't something that was discussed openly, either at home or in the media.

As a result, thousands on the autistic spectrum struggled through their childhoods and teenage years, attempting to make sense of a world they saw very differently to other people. Packham was in his 40s and already a famous face before he was diagnosed as having Asperger's syndrome, which causes him to struggle in social situations and find human relationships difficult. He candidly discusses his situation in this moving documentary, which also features testimony from his long-term partner, who describes him as sometimes being 'like an alien'. Packham also learns more about treatments, and ponders whether he would ever want to be cured.

WEDNESDAY

**Ugly House to Lovely House with George Clarke Channel 4, 8pm**

New series. George is joined by leading architects to help transform some of Britain's most unloved houses into desirable properties. In the first episode the team meet Simon and Lisa, who recently bought a building in rural Gloucestershire in such a shoddy state that neighbours

compared it to the house in Amityville Horror. George teams the couple up with creative architect Laura Clark, who attempts to turn this terrifying building into a warm and welcoming, modern home, whilst retaining some of its original character.

THURSDAY

**Gordon Ramsay on Cocaine ITV, 9pm**

Britain is the biggest user of cocaine in Europe – and it's rife in the restaurant trade. Gordon Ramsay has seen the drug wreck the careers of colleagues, including a protégé who lost his life to an overdose in 2003. He now presents this two-part documentary exposing the truth about the drug. He travels to South and Central

America to witness the illegal process by which cocaine is made, joins British police trying to catch drivers under the influence and sees the arrest of couriers on their way to a major deal.



Gordon Ramsay on Cocaine, Thursday, ITV, 9pm

FRIDAY

**Travel Man: 48 Hours in Rome Channel 4, 8.30pm**

Richard Ayoade is back for a new series of trips – and he begins by joining Matt Lucas for a Roman holiday. With just 48 hours to experience the Eternal City, they begin by dropping their bags off at their ultra-hip hotel, and then head to Rome's oldest hat shop in search of headgear that will protect them from the blazing Italian sun. Then, they set about touring the city in vintage Fiat 500 cars, finishing on top of Gianicolo Hill in time for the cannon being fired as part of a daily ritual that has been taking place since the 1850s. On the second day they stray into the same territory as ITV2's Bromans as, following a guided tour of the Colosseum, they head to gladiator school to practise their sword skills.

QI

**BBC2, 10pm**

The comedy quiz show returns, as Sandi Toksvig poses more perplexing questions to a selection of celebrity guests. As ever, the panellists will not necessarily be expected to deliver the correct answers, and Sandi will be handing out points to those who provide the 'most interesting' guesses. Challengers joining Alan Davies this week are Bill Bailey, Phill Jupitus and Claudia Winkleman.

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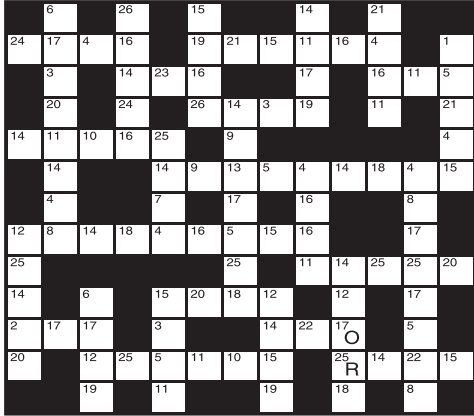


# BRAIN GYM

No.451

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
D	A	X	U	G	J	K	T	I	W	O	S	C
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
E	H	P	N	B	M	Z	F	V	L	R	Y	Q

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

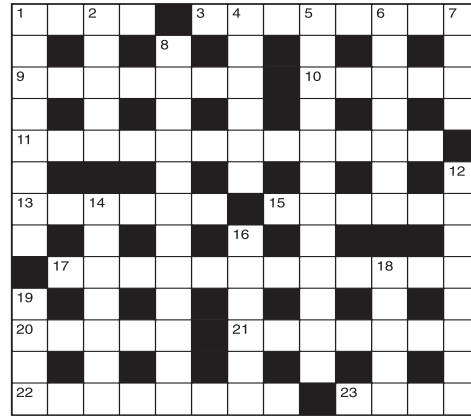
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- The Spanish manuscript may have many leaves (4)
- Loth to tackle anything not lined out (8)
- Coming to a similar conclusion (7)
- This can't be right (5)
- Cricketer's ideal, coveted by musicians (7,5)
- Descend on fire (6)
- Didn't deny that it's an abnormal appetite (6)
- Long lane that does have a turning for headwear (3-6,3)
- Wide on top? (5)
- Try to please? (7)
- A spot of sympathy? (4-4)
- They carry poison as an afterthought (4)

#### Down

- A pure one in the common market, perhaps (8)
- Senior citizen (5)
- Things look different after dark (6)
- Key phrase? (7,5)
- Listener's complaint (7)
- A politician's essay about love (4)
- She was one of his heroines (5,7)
- Not a man responsible for arranging publication (8)
- State encouraging one to let the matter rest (7)
- A colourless individual (6)
- Maintains the cargo is in them (5)
- Abandoned port (4)



### Quick Clues:

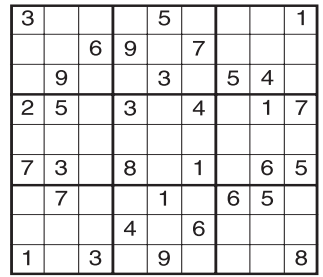
#### Across

- Cries (4)
- Reference (8)
- React (7)
- Confess (5)
- Bad luck (12)
- Diminish (6)
- Tree (6)
- Tangle (12)
- Higher (5)
- Injurious (7)
- Shrill (8)
- Parched (4)

#### Down

- Clamber (8)
- Foundation (5)
- Accounts book (6)
- Beyond reach (12)
- Wicked (7)
- Observe (4)
- Not easily angered (4-8)
- Wasted away (8)
- Plug (7)
- Narrow band (6)
- Deduce (5)
- Bother (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

1	5	4	8	2	7	3	9	6
7	2	6	5	3	9	1	8	4
9	8	3	4	6	1	7	5	2
5	6	8	7	9	2	4	1	3
2	7	9	1	4	3	5	6	8
4	3	1	6	8	5	9	2	7
6	9	5	2	7	4	8	3	1
3	4	2	9	1	8	7	5	6
8	1	7	3	5	6	2	4	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Recipes; 7 Flats; 9 Cover; 10 Galahad; 12 Investments; 14 Hermit crabs; 18 Routine; 19 Cedar; 21 Under; 22 Mercury. Down: 1 Besom; 2 Pigeon; 3 Sea; 4 Cleave; 5 Straits; 8 Battery; 11 Beating; 13 Rebound; 15 Matter; 16 Breach; 17 Balm; 20 Red. QUICK - Across: 6 Balance; 7 Jolly; 9 Lucky; 10 Promise; 12 Bread-winner; 14 Come to a head; 18 Inhuman; 19 Essay; 21 Petty; 22 Cunning. Down: 1 Vague; 2 Walker; 3 Act; 4 Common; 5 Cluster; 8 Growths; 11 Samovar; 13 Counter; 15 Equity; 16 Absent; 17 Vaunt; 20 Fun.

## Quiz

- Who scored the only goal in Terry Venables's first match as England manager?
- Whose wife was Frances Nisbet?
- What did IA Richards and CK Ogden devise?
- What type of animal is the dik-dik?
- What is the unit of currency of South Africa?

- Which country was ruled by dictator Kim Il-Sung?
- Which car firm's name means 'people's car'?
- Which film actress achieved fame in The Torrent in 1926?
- To which literary group did Virginia Woolf belong?
- What do children get from the tree Aesculus hippocastanum?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Laurence Olivier; 2 Pentateuch; 3 Melina Mercouri; 4 Pointillism; 5 The Seekers; 6 Haile Selassie; 7 Johann Strauss II; 8 Democrats; 9 Tank; 10 Rip Van Winkle.  
Niner: DECLARING

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

17789  
134592  
96592

gives a bird with webbed feet,  
gives a second bird with webbed feet,  
gives a third bird with webbed feet.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# It's Spain – with a capital Mmm

**RAUCOUS**, sometimes riotous, a tour of Madrid's tapas bars is as worthwhile as seeing powerhouse art gallery Museo del Prado and the colonnaded Plaza Mayor.

The loud-mouthed, boisterous city may not lay claim to its own dish, but you'll find restaurants, bars and delis serving some of the best regional Spanish food. Try *cecina* (cured beef) from Leon, *mojama* (salt-cured tuna) from Cadiz and sherry from Jerez.

According to a survey by Booking.com, 75 per cent of global travellers are likely to choose a location renowned for its great food and drink for their next destination. More than a third say food is what they remember most vividly about a place. For a true taste of Madrid, these are the foodie experiences you must sample.

Get your fill of history. Where: Botin Dining in this rickety four-floor warren of a restaurant is sampling a slice of history. Founded in 1725, it's been named the world's oldest restaurant by The Guinness Book of Records. A dapper waiter slices Iberico ham in the reception, while the original wood-burning oven slow roasts about 50 piglets a day. The tender pork dish is a classic and features on a recommended three-course house menu.

Snap up some foodie bargains. Where: San Miguel and Anton Martin markets

Revamped and renovated, the covered San Miguel market, just off Plaza Mayor, is filled with deli delights. Fried calamari rings in paper cones, fresh spider crabs on ice and fried churros are all beautifully displayed. Many people come here simply to snap photos and gaze up at the curling wrought iron roof. Prices reflect the venue's popularity

Lunch like a true local. Where: Prada a Tope Specialising in preserved figs, peppers and meats from the Bierzo region in northwest Spain, this well-

Hip to be square – Plaza Mayor in Madrid, Spain



Eating out – inside the Botin restaurant



priced, wood-panelled restaurant is a favourite with Madrilenos – especially for (late) lunch. Although not always Instagram-worthy, the generous, belly-stretching dishes are superb – particularly the salt-crusted, thin-sliced buttery steak with *zoupieros* figs and fries

Book a guided tapas crawl. Where: around the city centre

An unspoken code governs the etiquette of tapas dining in Madrid, which can be intimidating for the uninitiated. Menus (if any) will generally be Spanish chalk-scribbles on blackboards, and getting an order in

requires deft elbow manoeuvres to secure a space at the bar.

Let someone else do all the hard work by booking a food tour. Yorkshire lass Jo Wivell moved to Spain many years ago to follow her passion for flamenco, and now runs the excellent Insider's Madrid ([insidersmadrid.com](http://insidersmadrid.com)).

Book a bespoke tour with Jo and she'll show you all the best spots, including La Venencia, where grumpy staff serve sherry in a magical space stacked with wooden casks, and Emma Cocina (opposite the San

Miguel market), a rare place to find salads in the city.

A three-hour tour with all you can eat and drink in four stops costs from £144 per person (minimum two people). Discounts apply for bigger groups. Jo might even treat you to an impromptu dance performance!

Where to stay – Only YOU Atocha. Charming and breezily stylish, this young, energetic hotel sums up the spirit of Madrid. The 205 rooms are compact but filled with everything the millennial traveller might need. The real star is the SEP7IMA rooftop bar. SARAH MARSHALL

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## ELVIS AT THE O2 EXHIBITION

Quote Code: NDE941

Selected Saturday departures,  
November 2017 - January 2018

Back by phenomenal demand the Elvis Exhibition is back at the O2, with a whole lot of personal memorabilia never before seen outside Graceland making an even more spectacular show. Elvis is back in the building! Uh-huh.

### Price Includes...

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- ✓ Timed admission to The King is Back!- Elvis on Tour at the O2 Arena on Sunday
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Quote Code: GHP644



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Quote Code: FHV090

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- ✓ Free time in central London

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## Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**Naseby Drive, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63E1, 200 pcm+fees**  
A superb modern detached family home in a quiet cul de sac on the Squirrels estate. Reception hallway, guest cloakroom, spacious lounge leading to dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 good sized bedrooms & family shower room, gas central heating, double glazed, large driveway, carport & garage. New carpets to be fitted downstairs & redecorated. EPC: D



**Grange Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63E975 pcm+fees**  
A deceptively spacious detached family with many character features, entrance hallway with parquet flooring, large lounge with multi fuel burner, separate dining room, fitted kitchen, utility, 3 double bedrooms, large refitted bathroom, private long rear garden, large detached garage with electric roller door, gas central heating, double glazed. EPC: E



**Summerfields Avenue, Hurst Green, Halesowen, West Midlands, B62E795**  
Ideally located in Hurst Green, close to popular school, motorway access and commutable to Birmingham, is this lovely semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: 2 large bedrooms and 1 single box room, large rear reception room, front reception room, modern fitted kitchen with white goods, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, driveway parking and garage, unfurnished. EPC: E



**High Street, Ambicote, Audnam, DY8E775 pcm+fees**  
A fantastic opportunity to rent a home on a select development 'Crystal Gardens' featuring 3 generous size bedrooms (master with en-suite) finished to an exceptional standard. This home features a spacious lounge/dining area, well appointed kitchen, downstairs WC, the 1st floor has 2 bedrooms & a family bathroom & on the 2nd floor there is a master bedroom with a large en-suite, 2 allocated parking spaces, front & rear gardens. This property will not be available for at least 4 cars. Call now to get a viewing and not miss out. EPC: TBC



**Greenfield Ave, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64E675 pcm+fees**  
Fully refurbished semi detached house not to be missed. Large corner plot situated within walking distance of Cradley Heath Train Station and Cradley Town Centre. Featuring 1 reception room, beautiful fitted kitchen/diner, utility room, house bathroom with shower, also driveway parking for at least 4 cars. Call now to get a viewing and not miss out. EPC: TBC



**Wychbury Road, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5E995 pcm+fees**  
A superb semi-detached home close to Merry Hill and local train stations. Featuring entrance hallway, large lounge with patio doors to private rear garden with decking, (hot tub not included in rental) kitchen with oven/hob, 2 double bedrooms, 1 single, family bathroom with shower, garage & parking for 2 vehicles. EPC: TBC



**Wychbury Road, Brierley Hill, DY5E675 pcm+fees**  
This lovely semi detached house has been recently refurbished to a high standard & comprises of hall, extended lounge & kitchen, dining room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, tandem garage, front and rear gardens, central heating and double glazing. EPC: D



**Dudley Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 3LS E650 pcm+fees**  
A 2 bedroom detached bungalow in this very convenient location. Newly decorated with a brand new kitchen & bathroom this property offers a large lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, bathroom with shower, 2 good sized bedrooms, gas central heating, front & rear garden, garage & driveway. EPC: TBC



**Sanderson Place, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63E650 pcm+fees**  
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



**College Road, Quinton, Birmingham, West Midlands, B32E650 pcm+fees**  
Traditional 2 bedroom terraced house in a very desirable & convenient location close to shops, 24hr gym & bus route directly into Birmingham City Centre. The property has a lovely front reception room, large kitchen with dining area, utility room, downstairs w.c., private rear garden. Upstairs there are 2 good size bedrooms & a modern family bathroom with separate corner shower. Not to be missed! EPC: D



**Brett Young Close, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63E625 pcm+fees**  
An impressive 2nd floor apartment within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. This modern apartment features 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, spacious open plan lounge/kitchen, bathroom with shower, allocating parking. Also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. MINIMUM CONTRACT 12 MONTHS. EPC: B



**Blakedown Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63E625 pcm+fees**  
A beautifully presented 1st floor apartment situated in this very popular location close to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring hallway, large lounge with stunning views, kitchen with oven/hob & integrated fridge/freezer, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom & shower, garage included. The property further benefits from gas central heating & double glazed throughout. Garage also included. EPC: TBC



**Mount Street, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63E595 pcm+fees**  
Beautifully presented and in the centre of Halesowen. This fantastic mid terrace property features 2 large reception rooms with one having a beautiful feature fire place, a lovely modern fitted kitchen with appliances, large downstairs family bathroom and shower, 2 large double bedrooms and a secluded rear garden. Also benefiting from gas heating, double glazing and on road parking. EPC: D



**Mapletree Lane, Colley Gate, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 550 pcm+fees**  
An end of terrace in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School, bus links to Halesowen and Stourbridge. The property features 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden. A property not to be missed! EPC: TBC



**Waggon Street, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64E550 pcm+fees**  
A mid terrace house in this very convenient location close to train station & bus links. The newly decorated property comprises: fitted kitchen with oven/hob, lounge, 2 good sized bedrooms, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazed throughout, front & rear garden, on road parking. EPC: C



**Highland Road, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64E550 pcm+fees**  
A lovely end terrace house, and in a sought after location. Featuring a lovely rear lounge, fitted kitchen with washing machine, 2 good size bedrooms with built in wardrobes, house bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, low maintenance rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: D



**Southwick Road, Blackheath, Halesowen, West Midlands, B62E550 pcm+fees**  
Located minutes from Blackheath Town Centre and a short drive away from the M5 J2 and Rowley Regis Train Station. This refurbished 2 bed mid-terrace house features a brand new fitted kitchen, 2 lovely reception rooms, private rear garden, white bathroom suite with shower, 2 double bedrooms, on road parking. EPC: D



**Delingpole Walk, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64E575 pcm+fees**  
A popular development, close to local train station is this unfurnished, mid mews house, briefly comprising: gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, garage. EPC: C



**Round Street, Netherton, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2E525 pcm+fees**  
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. Set within a popular residential area, this unfurnished semi detached house comprises of a modern living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower and a conservatory. Benefits also include gas central heating, rear garden, driveway for 2 cars. EPC: D  
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**Upper High Street, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64E395 pcm+fees**  
Modern ground floor flat close to Cradley Heath train station & all bus routes. Featuring an open plan lounge/fitted kitchen with appliances, hallway to 1 double bedroom, bathroom suite with shower, electric central heating, communal garden, rear of property, on road parking. Only 1 months security deposit. 1 months rent in advance. EPC: G



**Eagle House, Lye, West Midlands, DY9E285 pcm+fees**  
A 1st floor studio apartment in the centre of Lye Town, also close for Lye Train Station. Featuring a combined lounge/bedroom, fitted kitchen with electric cooker, shower room, electric heater, shared laundry room, parking at rear, private communal area with seating. EPC: E



## Quick viewings urged for this end terrace property

In a great location, and expected to sell fast, this three-bedroomed end of terraced property in Harvest Road, Smethwick, is expected to prove popular with first time buyers and investors alike.

It is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at £134,950.

It has a side entrance hallway which leads into the well-proportioned dining room with double doors to the garden.

**SMETHWICK**  
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The generous-sized lounge has a bay window.

There are two good sized double rooms both with built-in wardrobes and the third room large enough to accommodate a single bed. The family bathroom completes this floor with shower over the bath.

Outside, there is off road parking

for up to two vehicles and a side gate to the garden.

The garden has a paved area with raised beds and a lawn with a shed and greenhouse.

The local area is brilliant for families and working professionals. This is also a great investment, with local amenities in close proximity to local infant, primary and secondary schools.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.

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## See next Thursday's Express & Star





## Five-bed home new to the market

**WEDNESFIELD**  
**£350,000**

New to the property market, this five-bedroom detached house in Barbel Drive, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, is a highly deceptively spacious property.

It is for sale through Connells at £350,000 with no chain.

Internally it has an entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom/WC, lounge, dining room, study/play room, kitchen diner and utility room.

To the first floor there are five bedrooms, a master en suite and a family bathroom.

Outside is off road parking to the front, a double garage and a generous panel enclosed rear garden.

Contact Connells on 01902 710 170.



## Apartment's location convenient for amenities

**BRIERLEY HILL**  
**£79,950**

<<<

Flat 5, 70 High Street, Brierley Hill, Dudley is a first floor apartment situated in the centre of Pensnett, being convenient for shops, services and commuter links.

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £79,950.

The property is well presented and has spacious living accommodation that briefly comprises an entrance hall, a living room, a fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Outside there are communal gardens and a garage provides secure storage and parking.

Internal viewing is essential to fully appreciate.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, contact DB Roberts & Partners on 01902 427257 or visit [www.dbroberts.co.uk](http://www.dbroberts.co.uk)

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'No Job Too Small'

### MB electric

All domestic and commercial  
electrical works undertaken  
Home rewiring from £800  
For a high quality  
local service call:  
0121 3690311  
07939 503905  
mbelectric.co.uk

## Double Glazing

### Misted Sealed Units?

### Black Country Glazing

Contact US for a FREE quote!

Manufacturers  
& Installers of  
windows, doors &  
conservatories

'A' Rated Windows as Standard

10 YEAR GUARANTEE

Please see our customer reviews  
on either Homepro or Which

Energy efficient windows  
that won't cost the earth

Station Street, Cradley Heath, B64 6AJ

Est 1987 01384 566100  
www.blackcountryglazing.com

Which? FENSA

## Driveways

### DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS

Block Paving and Tarmac  
Drives • Red Tarmac  
Car Parks • Resurfacing  
5 Year Guarantee  
On All Work

Free Quotations and Advice

Checkatrade

Tel: 01384 79900 • 07583 170190  
www.discountdriveways.co.uk

### ACE PAVING SERVICES LTD

City and Guilds Streetworks Approved  
• Tarmacing • Concrete Imprint • Block Paving and Patios • Landscaping  
• Streetworks • Curb dropping • Turfing • Fencing and Decking  
• Power Washing • 5 year guarantee FREE estimate • 15 years experience  
• Fully insured • Resinbond Drives

01384 847115 | 0121 7692193 | 07448031419

Web: www.acepavingsservicesltd.co.uk

Email: acepavingsservices@outlook.com

Cradley Enterprise Centre, Maypole Fields,

Halesowen B63 2QB

## Fencing

**PJW FENCING**

All types of  
fencing and  
gates supplied  
and fitted

Other services: Shed bases, slabbing and garden clearances,  
removal of trees, privet, old sheds and garages

QUALITY WORKMANSHIP AT COMPETITIVE PRICES • ALL AREAS COVERED

For a free quote call  
0121 532 2263 or 07951 536929

### Fencing & Gates

All Garden Work Undertaken  
• Slabbing • Block Paving • Tree Felling  
• Hedging and lawns cut  
• Turfing • Garden Clearance  
NO JOB TOO SMALL

Manufacturers of all Concrete Products  
eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards  
All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken  
Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)

Call Steve on  
01384 242891 or 07970 300586

## Fencing

**HIMLEY Fencing**

Sheds  
Available  
Also Shed  
Refelts

Prices start from £60.00 per bay  
Includes: Heavy duty concrete post  
• Gravel Board  
• FREE no obligation quotes  
• Fully Insured • Three year warranty

Call 07871 793 677 or  
01384 863284

## Garage Doors

### DB GARAGE DOORS

- Supply
- Repair
- Up and Over
- Side Hinged
- Made to measure
- FREE Survey & Quotation
- Install
- Roller
- Sectional
- Remote Control
- Doors

www.dbshutters.co.uk  
Tel: 0121 422 1990 Mob: 07860 858378

## Gardening

### ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES LTD

\*Tree Surgeon Specialist \*Stump Grinding/Root Removal  
\*Hedges Pruned/Shaped \*Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes  
\*Fencing \*Turfing \*Concreting \*Driveways & Patios  
\*Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation

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AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified,  
Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified  
PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

## Plastering

### R & S Gardens

- All garden work undertaken
- Hedges and lawns cut
- General tidy and rubbish removed
- Garden landscaping and fencing work

Telephone: 07851 323303

### DH PLASTERERS

FROM boarding, skimming, patching and repairs TO complete rooms

GUARANTEED  
LOWEST PRICES

0121 422 8594 or  
07985 548466

## Plastering

### C.A. Plastering

For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment  
needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding,  
partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.

No job too small 07538 718264

## Landscapers

### CARDINAL LANDSCAPES

West Midlands  
Specialists in Patios,  
Driveways, Paths, Fencing,  
Turfing, Decking and  
Landscaping

Call now for a  
FREE QUOTE  
01902 562600 or  
07539 887144

### Local Specialists

Our Specialist Section  
offers you a wide range  
of local businesses  
and tradesmen to deal  
with your needs and  
requirements.

## Mot's

### MOT

£27.99  
with this advert  
FREE RE-TEST

Green Garage, Unit 2a Station Road,  
(rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0LJ

0121 559 6001



## Plumbing

### HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING

(General Plumbing and Bathrooms)

All installations and repairs

Supply and fit or fit only

TIDY, MODERN APPROACH. REGISTERED PLUMBER

No job too small. Friendly service. Free advice and quotes

Tel: Neil 07968 786449 - 0121-602 6776

www.household-plumbing.co.uk

## Plumbing & Heating

### KEN PERRY

PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER  
Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing  
and Immersion Heaters,  
Multi Point Water Heaters,  
Landlord's Gas Certificates,  
Boilers changed  
Guild of Master Craftsmen  
Gas Safe Registered  
STOURBRIDGE 392284

## Property Maintenance

### K S SERVICES

All types of General Repairs to  
your home and garden  
Also interior and exterior  
decorating  
Local Friendly Service  
0121 532 4861  
No Job Too Small

## Roofing

### ROOFING SERVICES

One of the Leading Roofing Companies

No Job too Small, No Job too Big

• Gutters Cleaned From £15  
• Small Repairs From £15  
• Pointing Work From £15  
SPECIAL OFFERS  
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters,  
New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt  
and Garage Roofs.  
- Rubberised flat roofing  
- Flat roof specialist  
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- Est 25 years  
- Discounted for OAPs  
- Exterior Painting  
FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE

Home: 01384 872276  
Mobile: 07584 081228

### ELITE PLASTICS

• Fascias • Soffits • Dry Verge  
• Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair  
Premium Products Expertly Fitted  
With Full Manufacture Guarantee.

For A Free Quote call  
01384 468831 / 07985 575865  
www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

### Local Specialists





# Local Specialists



Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

## Roofing

## ALL WEATHER ROOFING

Slating, Tiling, New Roofs, Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding  
FREE ESTIMATES • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE  
Over 30 years experience

**0121 420 1582**  
**NO CALL OUT CHARGE**  
Mobile Number: 07947 839451  
allweatherroofingwestmids.co.uk  
allweatherroofinguk@outlook.com

## Tiling

## I.C.A. TILING SERVICES

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.  
Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.  
FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE  
Quality workmanship at competitive prices.  
Fully insured. Portfolio available.  
For a free quote call Ian on  
01384 412796 or 07890 894631



## Upholstery

**JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES**  
Specialists in Re-upholstery, Repairs and Antiques  
CONTRACT & DOMESTIC  
No Job Too Small  
FREE ESTIMATES  
Choice of patterns  
Quality Workmanship  
Blackheath  
0121 561 3977 daytime  
or 0121 561 2344 evenings after 6 pm



## Window Specialists

## Full Window Wizard Services Available



- Misted Units Replaced
- Broken Hinges
- Door Adjustment
- New Locks Installed

**HASBURY WINDOWS Ltd.**  
QUALITY | VALUE | SERVICE

Call for further details  
0121 421 7001

# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

## Funeral Directors

**N.E. DOWNING**  
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent family run  
Funeral Directors  
24 hour service  
Halesowen  
0121 422 2794  
www.nedowning.co.uk

## Monumental Masons

**HALESTONE MEMORIALS**  
Modern and traditional memorials  
Ring for FREE brochure  
0121 550 4235  
Or visit our showroom at  
Somers Road,  
Halesowen B62 8EN  
www.halestonememorials.co.uk

## Lost & Found

LOST—Ladies gold watch, Anchor Road, Aldridge, Friday, September 22, between 1pm - 2.15pm. 01922 647810.

LOST—Pandora Bracelet, Tettentail Wood Village, Friday, September 29, between 3pm-4pm. 01902 651140.

1

## Family

## Baby Needs

PLOT OF LAND 24 x 18, at Bushbury Crematorium, for cremation only. Low level land. £800. 01902 735713.

## Elderly & Disabled

FOUR WHEEL walker with seat, good condition. £25. 01902 840360.  
WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2

## Leisure Time

## Caravans Wanted

\*\*\*\*\*  
All Caravans Wanted  
Any Age or Condition  
\*CASH \* WAITING\*  
Immediate collection  
Call Bill on 07825 325 913  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Caravans/Motorhomes

2 BED STATIC CARAVAN  
Mid Wales. Lovely views, lawn, two fishing pools. 20 minutes to coast. Rent included for 2018. Dogs welcome. No age limit on caravans.  
£8,500.  
07555 303350.  
ATLAS NAVADA CARAVAN two bedrooms, two bathrooms, CH, DG, enclosed patio area, parking. Immaculate. On small quiet site in Mid Wales £14,495. 07966 265439.  
ELDISS 304 14FT Immaculate, little used, three years old, one double, plus 2 single bunks, many extras. £12,500 ono. 01902 652795.



**LUXURY LODGE**  
Bespoke lodge. 50ft x 20ft, near Welshpool. With a wrap around decking and luxury built in conservatory. Lakeside plot and private garden.  
Fully furnished.  
£76,500 ono.  
07816 986908.

LUXURY LODGES FOR SALE on stunning Seaside holiday park. 12 month season, amazing views, great facilities. Pet friendly. Call Paul to arrange visit 07960 944721.

## holidays

## Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

## mind, body & soul

## Massage

MOBILE Aromatherapy Massage  
Therapist Home / Hotel. To book appointments call 07437 569187.

## Sports & Leisure

## Free Ads

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY  
For items upto £250.  
Online at  
bookanad.  
expressandstar.co.uk

3

## Home & Services

## Collectables & Memorabilia

MARILYN MONROE memorabilia, head and shoulders bust standing lamp. No reasonable offers refused. 01384 671563.

## Furniture

KING SIZE luxury memory foam pocket sprung mattress and bed, 5ft, unused. Cost over £900. Accept £275. Telephone 07787 636984.

## LAURA ASHLEY BALMORAL

Chestnut display cabinet, large extending table, 6 chairs, nest of tables, coffee table and TV/media unit.  
Cost new £4,975.  
Immaculate condition, 12 months old.  
Sensible offers.  
Will separate.  
07487 809828.

THREE-PIECE SUITE, black, real leather, large settee, 2 reclining chairs, excellent condition, £160 ono. 01902 789288.

THREE & TWO seater sofa, chair, foot stool, floral burgundy, very good condition. £325 ono. Must collect. 01902 764934.

## Household Appliances

BUSH Black gas stove, excellent condition, under 3 years old, bargain £75.  
01902 736196.  
MODERN ARGOS Fridge freezer, half and half. Grey.  
£65.  
07521 411373.

## Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED  
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

## Items Wanted

## A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
01384 836219/07891 713547  
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com



A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS  
Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang.  
Best prices paid.  
Any condition.  
Collections bought.  
Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

## AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED

SHELL, ESSO, CASTROL ETC  
ALSO

GARAGE CLEARANCES  
Old Enamel Signs,  
Petrol Cans,  
Old Jugs,  
Bikes and Motorbikes.  
Anything old.  
\*\* TOP PRICES PAID \*\*  
01384 836219/07891 713547

COINS, MEDALS, BANK NOTES  
Wanted by private collector.  
Telephone 01902 676540.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted plus any old Crash Magazines. Wanted also any old your Sinclair magazines wanted. 01902 892918.

## Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

## specialists at your service

## Alarms/Security

## PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
Call: 0121 601 9791

## Aerials

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99  
01902 858191 • 01384 429166  
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST  
CCTV cameras fitted/tv wallmount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251

## CLASSIFIEDS BOOSTS BUSINESS!



"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

## Building Supplies

QUALITY DOORS AND HARDWOOD FLOORING @ low prices.  
Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

## Fencing

## CLASSIFIEDS BOOSTS BUSINESS!



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
SPECIAL OFFER  
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards. £695  
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, W'bury  
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

## Gardening Services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

## H GARDEN SERVICES

No Job Too Small!  
Free Quotes!  
07752 146554 or  
07835 905090

## Painters/Decorators



## Express & Star

## DECORATORS!

CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT  
(T&Cs Apply)

Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661  
claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

## Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

## House Clearances

ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

## Plastering

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE  
Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

## Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453299/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
12 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
**07771 727119**

## Rubbish Removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed/Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

## t.v. / home entertainment

## Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST  
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

## 4 Pets & Animals

## Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

GRAZING AVAILABLE  
Sedgley.  
01902 883037.

## Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS  
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

## Roofing



## We specialise in:

New Roofing, Re Roofing, Leak Repairs, Emergency Repairs, Lead Work, Tiling and Slating.

**07476 834512 0121 4204374**  
www.stoppsandpage.co.uk

**New Roofs, Slating, Tiling, GRP Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings uPVC Fascia Cladding.**

**0121 602 0346**  
**07904 736165**



## Pets Corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**BRITISH BULLDOG** puppies, excellent bloodlines (Seal/white) will leave with vaccinations, KC 5 generations of pedigree, wormed and fixed up to date well socialised with Children and other dogs, vet checked by a Bulldog specialist, ready now, £2,100. 07754 202092.

**ROSEDALE RESCUE CENTRE**  
1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1LN.  
01922 627013.  
Open Monday to Saturday 11am - 5pm.  
Sundays - Bank Holidays 11am - 4pm.  
Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/up to date with jabs.)  
Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.

## 5 Business & Farming

**Business Opportunities**  
READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

## 6 Property

### Accommodation To Let

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NEWLY REFURBISHED** one bedroom flat, Great Bridge, Tipton, £425 pcm. 07816 501847.

**ONE BED** furnished flat, kitchen, bathroom, parking, gardens. one mile to W-ton. 01902 883037.

**SMART SINGLE ROOMS** in Shared house, Netherton. £85 p.w. inc. bills. No DSS. 2 weeks deposit. 07940 116130.

**WILLENHALL**, luxury room, furnished, working person. £35pw. Telephone 07401 089298.

### Overseas Property

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL**  
01902 317878  
ClassifiedAds

## Properties Wanted

**WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME! FAST 4 Your House CASH**

**You agree the price, we buy the house...**

- NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

**0800 999 999 6**  
**01384 500 500** **30 yrs**

www.black-countryhomes.co.uk • subject to terms

**CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE**  
**£25,000 CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)**  
**0800 389 6788 01902 628047**  
We can buy your house in 7 days!  
Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition  
Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week Terms applicable

Need to sell your house quick?  
**WE WILL BUY YOUR HOME... FAST FOR CASH**  
Guaranteed sale in 48 Hours

- ☑ No Hassle For You
- ☑ No Commission or Surprises

**MPK** Call us today on: **01902 50 44 48** or visit our website: **mpknights.co.uk**

## Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish  
**£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££**

## Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**  
Sandwell area: Call **0121 696 4154**  
Walsall & Cannock area: Call **01922 432049**  
Wolverhampton: Call **01902 489901**  
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk



For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**CLASSIFIEDS BOOSTS BUSINESS!**

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!  
Our directory page on expressandstar.com has generated extra activity on our website."

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

## I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE

• Any Price • Any Condition • Any Area  
**Call Paula 01384 467643**  
★ Local ★ Independent ★ Confidential

# 7

## Jobs

Full Time General

**CV MATCHING. IT'S QUICK, EASY AND FREE**  
Real opportunities for you  
jobs.expressandstar.com

**Star Employment services**

## HGV MECHANIC

Our long established transport and distribution client are looking for skilled HGV mechanics. Vacancies are available on night shifts (plus rotation options).

**Essential skills / experience:**

- Must have experience of maintaining / repairing HGVs / Trailers
- MOT knowledge essential
- Knowledge of ancillary equipment desirable (Tail lifts, electrical etc.)
- Must have a driving licence, HGV preferable
- Commercial awareness and a good understanding and experience of a busy garage environment
- Safety aware and committed to a right first time ethos
- Enthusiastic, with the ability to work in a team and on own initiative

In return for your commitment our client is offering:  
Competitive hourly rate of pay £30,000- £35,000 a year

\* Full time / permanent  
\* Training and development

To apply for this position send your CV to **jobs@staremploymentservices.co.uk** or call **01902 319333**.

## EXPERIENCED TAXI OFFICE OPERATOR

A reliable person required to take and pass bookings. Knowledge of local area and own transport would be an advantage.  
Main hours Fri/Sat 17.00 - 01.00 £7.50p/h.  
Additional hours available.

Waterfront Cars, Unit M, Office No 4,  
Woodside Industrial Estate, Pedmore Road,  
Dudley DY2 0RL  
Email: **ali.waterfrontcars@live.co.uk**  
Tel: **07956 285555** after 2pm

**Waterfront Cars**  
Merry Hills best taxi service

**Star Employment services**

## ESTIMATOR/ DESIGN ENGINEER

Our client is the UK's largest designer and manufacturer of light gauge galvanised steel purlins, side rails and mezzanine floor systems for use in a wide range of industrial and commercial developments. The successful candidate will be required to work as part of the estimating/ design team of this market leading division.

Person Specification:

- \* The ideal candidate would have between 2 to 5 years' experience working with BS5950 and BS6399 (knowledge of Eurocodes, especially 1 & 3 would be an advantage) in an estimating / design office environment
- \* Be able to produce quantities from drawings for quotations
- \* Have commercial awareness
- \* Be familiar with AutoCAD
- \* Have the ability to form good working relationships with customers
- \* Be well organised, self-motivated, professional and able to work under pressure
- \* Be responsible for achieving objectives on own initiative, as well as part of a team
- \* Be computer literate and able to communicate estimates and design
- \* Have attention to detail and accuracy
- \* Must be eligible to work in the UK

Key Responsibilities:

1. Management of projects through the design and sales office
2. Design / estimate of cold rolled steel with the use of in-house software
3. Clearly communicate quotations / designs to customers
4. Provide support and advice to the team of Area Sales Managers

Package: Competitive salary, Company Pension Scheme, Health Cash Plan, Life Assurance and 33 days holiday (including statutory days)

To apply for this position send your CV to **jobs@staremploymentservices.co.uk** or call **01902 319333**.

## Courses



**BIRMINGHAM:** 30 NOV.-1 DEC. & 27-28 JAN.  
**STOKE:** 17-18 JAN. **TELFORD:** 25-26 JAN.  
**WOLVERHAMPTON:** 6-7 DEC. & 8-9 MARCH

**Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST**

NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED  
**Introduction to Phlebotomy**  
**TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification**  
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

For more info or to book: **www.geopace.com**

HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD

## Employment Wanted

**EXPERIENCED BRICK LAYER** requires any type of brick work. 07341 021774.

# 8

## Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



ALFA ROMEO

Good condition, Mot April

£1,595

07832 022092.



**BMW 24 CONVERTIBLE**  
2003, mint condition, MoT, Electric windows, Electric Mirrors, heated glass back window, service history. £2,750.  
**07946 383970.**



**FORD FIESTA 1.4 STYLE PLUS**  
5 door. 2010, 66,800 miles, metallic red. One previous owner. Long MoT. Absolutely gorgeous. Possibly cleanest one around.  
£3,995.  
**01902 674550.**



**FREELANDER 2 GS TD4**  
Black 122k 2007  
Good condition. £3,995 and May part ex  
**01902 764693**

## Express & Star

BE A LOCAL **STAR**

Sales Relationship Merchandiser

Do you have an eye for detail, are you self-motivated, enthusiastic and are able to communicate effectively and with confidence.

The Express and Star are looking for a sales relationship merchandiser to join our team helping to grow audience, strengthen the relationship with retailers, readers and ensure the brand experience is positive.

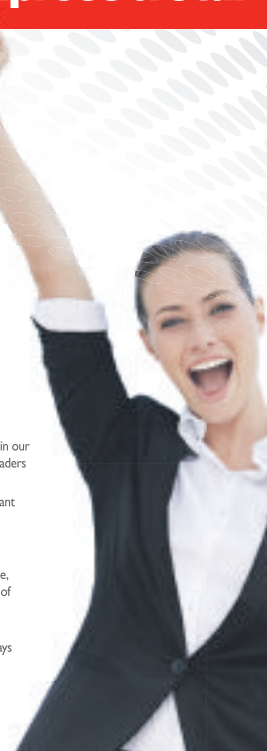
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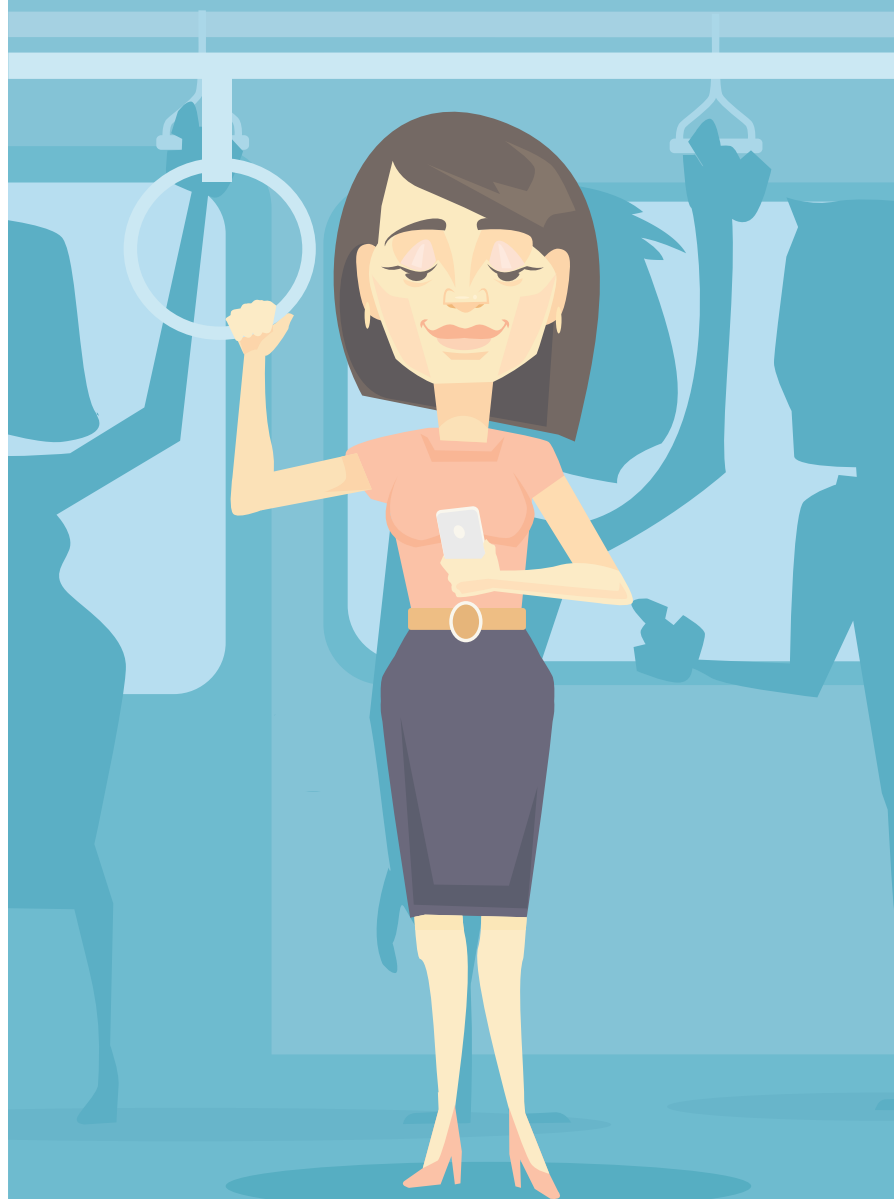
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# Expansion for family-run Oak Garage, Merry Hill

## Commercial feature

Expansion is always a reassuring sign that a business must be doing well. Customer demand is based on happy customers. That's exactly what you'll find at Oak Garage in Sterling Park, Merry Hill. You may have heard their ads on Black Country Radio, but if you make a visit down to their growing base in Sterling Park, you'll be able to see for yourself what's behind this growth.

It was back in 2006 that two family run businesses, Oak Garage and Imperial Cars merged together. Combining many years' experience that dated back to 1971, they are now one of the longest running family run used car sales businesses in the Midlands.

This expansion for Oak Garage means they have doubled in size, taking up two more units at the Sterling Park site, now having four of the eight units there.

It means they have around 80 cars ready for viewing at any one time, with half of their vehicles undercover and protected while prospective customers come along to see them.



Oak Garage has doubled in size

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Expansion for Oak Garage comes because of their quality, integrity and desire to deliver customer service that goes above and beyond what's expected of others. So many happy customers can't be wrong – and the RAC agree.

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# Crossland X fills more practical needs

By Ian Donaldson

Vauxhall is keen to tell you what its new Crossland X is not – and it's not a mildly macho four-wheel driver for people with adventurous tastes.

No, that task is filled in the range by the nearly-as-new Mokka X, a mere finger's length longer, but aimed at different buyers.

The Crossland X is as more down to earth machine (literally; it lacks the Mokka's rock defying ground clearance and 4WD availability) and is aimed at filling the more practical needs of its buyers.

And these, Vauxhall thinks, will be either younger couples who need the Crossland's space for people and their bits and bobs or older types who relish the car's raised seating and the way it makes for easier entry and exit as the joints begin to creak a little.

## Family-friendly

Either group will be taking on a car that looks crisply neat outside and in and starts at a family-friendly £16,555 – although Vauxhall is following the industry trend and offers only a single colour (blue) that doesn't mean another £550 for metallic paint.

The range tops out at £21,380, heading a line up that borrows heavily from the Peugeot group for the bits you can't see, from body platform to engines and gearboxes.

That deal was struck years before the recent takeover of Vauxhall by the Peugeot empire and there's another joint venture due later this year with the larger Grandland X, which shares bits with the French firm's 3008.

It's no surprise that Vauxhall is keen to ramp up its offerings in the SUV part of the market, growing at a phenomenal pace



Your car can become a wi-fi hotspot

as buyers shun the more traditional small hatchback. They'll enjoy the sense of space in the Crossland X, with loads of headroom front and back and a rear seat (which for £300 can optionally slide forward to favour boot room) that is adult-friendly too. That means a useful increase in the already generous boot capacity, from 410 litres to 520 litres, or a van-like 1,255 litres with the rear seat folded flat.

The entry-level engine is the 1.2-litre petrol with 81bhp (54.3mpg combined; 116g/km CO<sub>2</sub>). Elsewhere in the range, the 1.2 Turbo with petrol direct injection is available in three variants. The ECOTEC engine is equipped with the five-speed manual transmission (58.9mpg combined; 111-109 g/km CO<sub>2</sub>) and delivers 108bhp, while the 1.2-litre combined with the six-speed automatic gearbox manages 57.3mpg combined and 123g/km CO<sub>2</sub>.

The top-of-the-line petrol engine is the 1.2 Turbo with 128bhp (55.4mpg combined; 116g/km CO<sub>2</sub>) and six-speed manual transmission.



There's loads of headroom front and back and a rear seat that is adult-friendly

This takes the Vauxhall Crossland X from zero to 62mph in 9.1 seconds and to a maximum speed of 128mph.

The line-up also includes two turbocharged diesel engines, including the 1.6 with 98bhp. The diesel ECOTEC variant, with Start/Stop, emits 93g/km CO<sub>2</sub> and achieves up to 78.5mpg combined. The most powerful diesel is the 1.6 with 118bhp (70.6mpg combined; 105g/km CO<sub>2</sub>) and a top speed of 116mph.

Standard kit across the range includes climate control, alloy wheels, cruise control and LED daytime running lights. Depending

on grade or options, your Crossland X can park itself without the driver touching the steering wheel (which can be heated) and will beat winter frosts with a heated windscreen.

Opt for Vauxhall's OnStar system and your car becomes a wi-fi hotspot, with the chance to hook up seven mobile devices. So the kids will stay silently glued to their iPads in the back.

The way the car feels on the road depends greatly on what's under the bonnet. They all share a ride that prefers smoother roads and turns a bit sharp on bad ones and the likely

most popular, the 110 horsepower petrol lacks sparkle when provoked, although 45mpg on the test route was some compensation.

The more powerful 128bhp petrol model was very much livelier (and its six-speed gearbox sweeter) and returned an identical 45mpg. It felt a transformed vehicle.

Much more economical (58mpg on test) was the more powerful of the diesel Crosslands, which felt as swift as the better petrol and makes sense for the business user (a minority of buyers here) who won't mind the higher purchase price.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) – 74.3 (3.8), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) – 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) – 85.6 (3.3). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 373 – 88g/km.<sup>#</sup>

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Professor Allyson Pollock says the Government has a "duty of care"



Youngsters from Bridgnorth Rugby Club in action

# Rugby coach tackling the scientists head on

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Mark Andrews

**"The health crisis facing Britain's children is not concussion, but obesity and lack of exercise."**

IN Tom Brown's School Days, the protagonist observed: "It's very odd how almost all English boys love danger; you can get ten to join a game, or climb a tree, or swim a stream, when there's a chance of breaking their limbs or getting drowned."

It is fair to say Tom's adventures with Scud, George and Flashman would have been very different had their teachers heeded the latest advice from experts at Newcastle University.

Writing for the British Medical Journal, Prof Allyson Pollock and Graham Kirkwood have called for scrums and tackles to be banned from school playing fields, arguing that most injuries in youth rugby are caused by collisions during the game.

Calling for the Government to step in, Professors Pollock and Kirkwood say ministers should "put the interests of the child before those of corporate professional rugby unions".

But Dominic Bradburn, director of sport at Oswestry School, is unconvinced.

### Dangers

"You can't take tackling out of the game, it would ruin it," says Mr Bradburn, who has played the sport for Shrewsbury RFC.

Phil Jefferies, who coaches youngsters at Bridgnorth Rugby Club, says that taking tackling out of the junior game could actually make it more dangerous when children get older. "I think there's always merit in re-looking at sport and understanding the dangers involved," he says.

"My personal view is that what we need to do is to teach kids the correct techniques to scrummaging and tackle, and give them the experience of this at a slower rate when they are small.

"If you take the tackling and scrummaging out of the game at school level, by the time they reach the age of 18 they will have no experience of it, and I think you will get a lot more injuries than you do now."

Mr Jefferies, who is 42, first started playing the game when he was eight years old. He says that in 34 years he has suffered from concussion twice, despite

playing the position of flanker where his head is particularly vulnerable.

"I would imagine the risk of leg breaks in football is far greater," he says, although he does add that head injuries can be much more serious.

He points out that much has changed in the way rugby is taught to youngsters in recent years.

"You now have age range rugby, where different rules are gradually brought in for different age groups," he says. "That's only come in over the last four years."

Prof Pollock, a public health doctor who has been researching rugby injuries for more than 10 years, and Prof Kirkwood, a former NHS nurse, say that removing collisions from school rugby would "reduce and mitigate the risk of injury" in pupils.

They warn that a history of concussion could "lower a person's life chances" across a number of measures including educational achievement and life expectancy. They also say that head injuries could increase the risk of dementia.

Mr Bradburn agrees more could be done to make junior rugby safer, but says banning tackles is not the way to go about it.

He says a better idea would be to classify youngsters by their weight rather than age, as is done in New Zealand. At the moment we have the situation of under-12s rugby, where you might have a boy who has gone through puberty, and one who hasn't," he says. "You get a boy weighing 60kg going up against one who is 20kg. At that stage it is more about maturation and puberty than it is simply about age," he adds. Citing previous research into sports injuries

in youngsters, Profs Pollock and Kirkwood say that rugby, along with ice hockey and American football, have the highest concussion rates. They say rule changes can make a difference, highlighting the Canadian ban on deliberate contact in ice hockey for under-13s.

But Mr Bradburn, who has been teaching rugby for 14 years, says the game is no different from any other contact sport. He says the important thing is to ensure that it is taught properly, and that staff are trained in dealing with any knocks that might be picked up.

He is not the only one who is sceptical. In 2016, the nation's most senior medics rejected a call for a ban on tackling in youth rugby.

Prof Tara Spire-Jones, of the University of Edinburgh, says while people should be careful playing sports where there is a risk of head injury, the scientific evidence isn't strong enough to justify drastic rule changes.

### Benefits

"The data on specifically whether playing rugby or other contact sports in school increases your risk of dementia are not as robust yet due to a lack of large prospective studies," she says.

There are also many who argue that the health benefits of getting youngsters involved with sport outweigh any risks from concussion.

Pollock and Kirkwood say that under United Nations conventions, governments have a duty to protect children from risks of injury. But brain injury expert Dr Alan Carson believes experts should think very hard before bringing in rules which could mean fewer children want to take part in sport.

"The health crisis facing Britain's children is not concussion, but obesity and lack of exercise," he says.

Mr Jefferies says that taking tackling out of the junior game would deny youngsters the opportunity to get some much-needed exercise.

"We have got 300 kids in our junior teams, and when you have boys that age there is a lot of testosterone," he says.

"At the age of 11 and 12, they need to run around and be active. From the age of nine, when they are told they can tackle, all they want to do is tackle. It just smacks of the nanny state."



Coach Phil Jeffries believes the game would be more dangerous



Dominic Bradburn says a ban would ruin the game

## Daley launches hunt for the next big thing

FORMER Villa, Wolves and England winger Tony Daley is hoping to help uncover the next generation of future stars – after launching his own football coaching programme.

Daley, who also played for Walsall, has joined forces with his lifelong friend Dave Barnett – who was released by Wolves as a youngster and played for Blues and Barnet among others – to set up Pro Level Performance (PLP), a 30-week programme (one day a week for two hours). Based in Aston, it will focus on the mental side of the game as much as the physical. Capped seven times by England, Daley left Wolves this summer after a decade at the club working on fitness and sport science. He said: "We have a wealth of experience to nurture the youth of today – this is a bespoke programme for aspiring young players. At my school there were five or six lads who were better footballers than me but the mental side is just as important, hence our motto 'skill is not enough'."

Visit [www.prolevelperformance.co.uk](http://www.prolevelperformance.co.uk) for more details.

## Wheels in Motion on new league deal

THE region's non-league football scene has received a significant boost thanks to a sponsorship deal from a vehicle management company.

The Midlands Football League, which boasts 76 clubs across four divisions, will be branded the Total Motion Midlands Football League thanks to an initial five-figure sum. The leasing company hopes to invest up to £250,000 across a five-year partnership, launched at the Banks's Stadium.

The idea, according to managing director and co-founder Simon Hill, is for clubs to profit and earn a portion of the five-figure sum stumped up yearly by Total Motion.

The incentives plan mean clubs can earn bonuses the more they utilise Total Motion's services by leasing vehicles. The company will offer £25 per vehicle rented, a figure the league will match. There is also a £1,000 end-of-season prize on offer for the club that comes out on top of a Total Motion 'league table' created by Total Motion, while a special £5,000 bonus is available for clubs that lease 250 vehicles in one financial year.

## Spill puts dampener on Wigley race hopes

HEDNESFORD'S Kurt Wigley returned to the renowned fast track of Assen, in the Netherlands, for the first time in six years as the British Superbikes series moved overseas.

Taking part in the British Supersport championships, the 21-year-old admitted it took a while to get to grips with the track, hitting a damp patch and going over the handlebars during qualifying, damaging the bike as well as injuring a thumb.

The team had about three hours to rebuild the bike for the first race and had the Sorrymate.com Yamaha on the start line just in time.

Starting 10th on the grid, Wigley was up to sixth by the end of the first lap but still struggling with his injury. He suffered another crash coming out of the hairpin and high-sided.

"The rules are if you crash you're out of the race," he said. "It meant I started the next race in 15th but it was a much better race and I managed to catch the top 10, finishing in ninth."





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## Stourbridge race away from Blaydon

**Blaydon RFC 11 Stourbridge RFC 40**  
STOURBRIDGE ended a hoodoo against a bogey side they last played in March 2012 during a relegation season.

This was also a game that Stour – featuring Geordie made good Neil Mitchell – needed to win to assert their promotion hope.

The hosts had won only a single game – at home against Otley – and were not at the races here despite taking the lead with a John Whyman penalty.

It took just four minutes for Joe Heatley, playing in his third different starting position of the season to score his seventh try. Chris Scott added the extras. Moments later Josh Trinham went down after a nasty head clash and was replaced by Nick David who was to see out the rest of the match. Blaydon hit back with a try of their own on the half hour mark through Nathan Bailey.

Shortly before half-time Blaydon found themselves a man down after persistent offside calls and Stour took a 14-8 lead with the award of a penalty try.

Blaydon started the second half well with a three-point penalty after 51 minutes by replacement fly half Ryan Foreman only for Dan Rundle to chalk up another valuable try six minutes later. Afeafe Haisila added the extras.

Blaydon rallied for a spell but, on 71, Nick David added a bonus point try, the extras added. The floodgates opened and replacement hooker Sam Wilkes added his name to the scoresheet and Haisila's last-minute self-converted try put the icing on the cake.

## Problem encounter as Eggington loses out in title defence

**SAM Eggington** was beaten in the first defence of his European title on Saturday night.

The Stourbridge fighter, only the week before named the Boxing Writers' Club's Young Boxer of the Year, was outpointed by Mohamed Mimounne for the welter strap on a split decision at the Manchester Arena.

The 23-year-old was the victor with one judge by four rounds, 116-112, but the other two went with Mimounne 116-112 and 115-113 respectively.

Eggington noticeably struggled to make the weight, having to strip completely naked at the weigh-in, with a towel covering his modesty, to tip the scales at 10st 7lb.

That looked to have played its part in a lethargic performance, with his opponent, nicknamed 'the Problem,' utilising his awkward southpaw skills to great effect. The Frenchman was the mandatory challenger and vacated his European Union belt for the opportunity.

A rebuilding process at a new weight now awaits Eggington. He hopes his power will travel up to super welter.

## Vipers touch down at rugby club



Black Country Vipers American Football team

STOURBRIDGE Rugby Club is to host another oval ball sport as the Black Country Vipers American Football team has signed up to play at Stourton Park.

Talks have been ongoing for several months, with both sides expressing excitement at the prospect of gridiron being played at the rugby club.

Rugby club chairman Robin Edwards said: "There's a synergy between our two sports that will provide excellent opportunities for young players from both clubs. With the American Foot-

ball season running from April to September, it is a perfect fit with our rugby season."

Ian Jewkes, CEO and general manager of Black Country Vipers, said: "The move provides us with excellent playing and training facilities, as well as the opportunity for players from both clubs to try out a different sport."

Taster sessions for 13-18-year-olds take place on October 15, November 19 and December 10 from 2-4pm. For more information visit [www.blackcountryvipers.com](http://www.blackcountryvipers.com)

## Race meeting could be last for Heathens

CRADLEY race what could be their last ever league meeting when they face Eastbourne at Wolverhampton next Monday (7.30).

Club bosses have confirmed they cannot guarantee the team will be at the tapes for 2018 until they know how many dates Wolves need.

That appears to rule out any home meetings at Birmingham next season with crowds significantly lower for Heathens meetings there.

The Heathens' season will round off at Monmore the following week, October 23 with the famous F.A.S.T Golden Hammer individual, with a line-up that Patchett believes is one of the strongest to date.

"We want to end the season on a high over the next two Mondays at Wolverhampton, starting with Eastbourne," said co-promoter Gary Patchett.

"We desperately tried to squeeze this fixture into our schedule prior to the cut-off date but there was no space available and denied us a very late charge at the play-offs.

"But you have to play with the hand you're dealt with and just because there's nothing riding on it as such, it's still a very important meeting.

"There's no hiding from the fact that this has been an unusually disappointing year for the Heathens and it's important to go out on some sort of a high.

"And while we sincerely hope it's not the case, who knows, it could be the last league meeting for Cradley."

## Reece seals place in championships

BLACK Country Triathletes did themselves proud at the Oulton Park Autumn Duathlon in Cheshire.

The morning Sprint involved a 5km run, 25km ride and a 5km run and was a qualifier for the European Duathlon Championships in October 2018 in Ibiza. Reece Ashfield was first home in 1:04:28, in an automatic qualifying third place in the 17-18 age group.

In the afternoon's Standard Distance Race, the English National Championship race for this distance, a 10km run, 40km bike and 5km run, Rob Kennard brought home the bronze medal, third in the 50-54 age group in 1:53:15.

## Halesowen Town 2 Hednesford Town 1 HALESOWEN followed up their win in the No.9 Derby by ending Hednesford Town's three-game winning streak on Tuesday night.

Two first-half goals proved enough for Yeltz to record back-back wins for the first time this season.

The hosts took a 31st minute lead through an own goal when John McAtee's shot struck unlucky defender James Mutton, leaving goalkeeper Jose Veiga stranded as the ball nestled in the net. It was 2-0 just five minutes later when Veiga failed to gather above his head, allowing Daniel Udoh, hero of the win over Glassboys, to convert from a wide angle.

Hednesford gradually began to dominate and pulled a goal back after 63 minutes when substitute Jordan Graham latched onto a forward ball and cut inside to hit a low shot past Dan Platt.

**Stourbridge 1 Halesowen Town 2**  
HALESOWEN threw the form book out of the window to win the No 9 derby against the odds on Saturday.

Stourbridge looked the odds-on favourites for victory against their local rivals, with Gary Hackett's men having made an impressive start to the Evo-Stik Premier Division campaign and Yeltz, before the game, lying rock-bottom.

But the visitors ran out winners in front of 2,306 spectators at the War Memorial Ground in Ambleside.

The tense atmosphere gave way to crowd trouble from a small section of fans, with two flares being thrown onto the pitch during the game.

Halesowen's game plan was to catch Stourbridge on the counter-attack, and it paid off with two well-taken goals from striker Daniel Udoh, firstly on seven minutes and then just before the interval.

Stourbridge found the net on 63 minutes to drag themselves back into the contest when Ryan Rowe deflected in a Leon Broadhurst free-kick taken right on the edge of the box.



Halesowen players celebrate their win with fans at the end of the game



Udoh races away after opening the scoring



Players celebrate the first goal with Daniel Udoh

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